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THE

CHAMPLAIN SPORTSMAN



AND

NATURALIST

A
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JOURNAL



VOL. II.
No. 3.
1882.

A. J. DONLUP DEL.

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THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

No. 3.

MONTREAL, MARCH, 1882.

Vol. II.

WILLIAM COUPER, Editor.

A COMPARISON OF THE GAME LAWS OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

The growing scarcity of many of our game birds and quadrupeds is a matter of great interest to sportsmen, all of whom should unite in their efforts to prevent this diminution. That the extension of the period of our close seasons would be of great benefit, we do not think will be denied, and no true sportsman should object to a curtailment of his privileges, in this respect, when the object to be attained will ultimately be the means of providing him with increased pleasure. There is a marked difference in the protection afforded by the Game Laws of Ontario and Quebec, and the assimilation of some of the close seasons could not fail to be of benefit to this Province.

A synopsis of the Game Laws of the two Provinces shows the close seasons to be as follows:—

	ONTARIO.	QUEBEC.
Deer and Caribou..	15 Dec. to 1 Oct.	1 Feb. to 1 Sept.
Moose.....	do	do
Grouse (Partridge), &c. }	1 Jan. to 1 Sept.	1 March to 1 Sept.
Wild Turkey and Quail }	1 Jan. to 1 Oct.	
Woodcock.....	1 Jan. to 1 Aug.	1 March to 1 Sept.
Snipe.....	1 Jan. to 15 Aug.	1 March to 1 Sept.
Mallard, Gray Duck } Black Duck, Wood } Duck }	1 Jan. to 15 Aug.	West of Three Rivers 1 May to 1 Sept. East of Three Rivers
Other Ducks.....	1 May to 15 Aug.	do
Swans and Geese...	do	15 May to 1 Sept.

Thus, in Ontario, Virginian deer and Moose are protected from 15th December, although the open season is one month later than in Quebec, the wisdom of this is apparent from the fact that these animals fall an easy prey to the hunter in winter, especially in the month of January, when the deep snow and the crust formed by the frost and sun, prevent their escape; the Caribou, however, from its lighter weight and the peculiar

formation of its hoofs is enabled to move very rapidly through deep snow, and is seldom run down by the hunter. Ruffed Grouse are protected from 1st of January in Ontario, while our open season extends until 1st March; the long winter affording the *habitant* an opportunity to try his hand at snaring, as he has seldom anything else to occupy him at this time of year. It is well known that the greater number of these birds with which our markets are supplied, are procured by this means, and it is hardly possible to obviate this, except by making winter a close season. Ruffed Grouse are very easily snared, and to the depredations of the market hunters alone, must the scarcity of these birds be attributed. The Fish and Game Societies of the Province of Quebec have been endeavouring to obtain an amendment to the Act for the Protection of Game, prohibiting the spring shooting of ducks. This is a much needed reform, as from a statement submitted by the Secretary of the Montreal Club, no less a number than 1000 brace of Black Duck were exposed for sale in the Montreal markets last spring. These birds, as well as Mallard, Wood Duck, &c., are protected during the spring in Ontario, and we cannot understand how our Government should tolerate such a destruction in the breeding season. If our legislators are not sportsmen, they should, at least, have a slight knowledge of political economy, and recognize that game is one of the resources of the country, which should be conserved like any other product. A bill to abolish spring shooting was presented last session, but owing to the opposition which it received, was withdrawn; we trust, however, it will not be abandoned and that when again presented, both parties in the House may unite in passing this much needed amendment. The great difficulty with all game laws is to secure their proper observance, especially in remote sections of the

country. If it were possible to prevent the snaring of Ruffed Grouse, the present protection would, no doubt, be ample; as it is, however, the *habitants* pursue their work of trapping unmolested, and the only feasible way of stopping this would seem to be by prohibiting the sale of these birds after a specified time; the law would not then be violated to such an extent as the market hunters would not be able to dispose of their game and would in consequence restrict their efforts to obtaining a supply sufficient for their own use.—WALLACE.

THE DESTRUCTIVE BRUSH WEIRS.

That there is cause for the decrease of Salmon along the shores of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the tributaries of the St. Lawrence, cannot be denied. They have steadily decreased in these waters since 1841. The blame for paying high prices for this wholesome food, must rest on the shoulders of the Government, who have allowed the inhabitants residing along the sea-board to erect "Stake or Barrier Nets" and "Brush Weirs." The "Stake-Net" is a Scotch invention introduced into Canada about the year 1818, and they have been found effective modes of capture, by intercepting the fish in their approaches to the rivers. They are formed of strong netting attached to "Stakes" driven into the shore, and these nets extend from high to low water mark; thus placed before the course of the fish on their way to the breeding grounds. The "Stake-Net" terminates in a chamber or trap from which there is no escape. The "Brush Weir" is more destructive; composed of wicker-work or brush-wood, it also has a chamber with a narrow entrance wherein all kinds and sizes of fish are caught at the ebb of the tide. These destructive traps are self-acting, working night and day. Although the fishery regulations require an open space to be made in the lower part of the chamber to be covered with net-work to

admit the passage of small fishes, the provision is defeated by quantities of seaweed and other floating substances which close the netting at every tide. We advise the Government to destroy every one of these warring fences at once and forever. "Stake-Nets" should be absolutely abolished in the Lower St. Lawrence. In 1841, Salmon were abundant; 50,000 being the annual catch on one of the Labradorian rivers, and during the latter year, 1,800 Salmon were taken during one tide at Tadoussac. Other rivers along the Lower St. Lawrence were then equally productive, but the "Weirs" and "Stake-nets" extended rapidly, and since then Salmon, Shad, Cod, Herring, Striped and Sea-Bass have been annually destroyed by "Brush Weirs." These engines when first placed in Scottish and Irish waters, produced profitable returns to the Weir-holders; but, during this time, destructive results so far as regarded the propagation of Salmon. The British Government became alarmed, and a scientific commission was appointed to make enquiry as to the cause. The following is an extract from the Report of Sir William Jardine, one of the Commissioners. It speaks for itself.—

"In adverting to the evil done to the Fisheries by the use of these fixed barriers, and in pointing out the course believed to be indispensable to preserve what remains of these Fisheries, may be interfering with the gains of a few, who, in large estuaries or other favored localities, still reap a precarious harvest from their use; but I hold it to be due to the public that the destruction caused by the modes of fishing hitherto and still practised should be frankly indicated without regard to the private gains of any individual. There is no doubt that the longer these obnoxious Engines are permitted to exist the more difficult will be their removal. The instances in older countries of the destitution, the riots, the bloodshed and loss of life caused by these nuisances to fishing and navigation ought to be a warning to us."

Here in Canada, we have a Fishery Department which is cognizant of the fact that these "Brush Weirs" are annually a source of

profit to the owners; and, furthermore, it is aware that these traps destroy millions of young fish at every tide and no action has been taken to abolish them, or stop their increase. Why should this be allowed any longer? We have Salmon rivers in the three Provinces mentioned, which were heretofore unequalled on this earth,—rivers which by expending a small amount on each, would ultimately produce a large return to those who would lease them—that would be annually a source of large revenue to the country. We are determined not to lose sight of this subject, and shall keep the matter before the public until we see justice done. We call for the destruction of "Brush Weirs," as they are the worst enemies of the young of fishes inhabiting the saline waters in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. They look ugly, adding no natural feature to a maritime view; are dangerous to navigation, and the sooner they are destroyed the better for the fish and the country.—C.

ORNITHOLOGICAL QUERIES.

The Sparrow Owl, *Nyctale Richardsonii*, Bonaparte. We want accurate information regarding the nest of this owl. Does it lay its eggs in a tree cavity, or on the ground? Has it been found nesting in Canadian forests south of the parallel of 50° north latitude? Mr. Vennor wrote to the *Montreal Witness*, some time ago, that he discovered its nest on the ground near one of our northern rivers.

The Saw-Whet Owl, *Nyctale Acaliaca*, Bonaparte. The nest of this species has been found in Nova Scotia, but its nesting habits do not agree with the above Genus. Did anyone find its nest in the woodlands of Quebec or Ontario? The eggs of these two species are desiderata in Oölogical cabinets.

The Snowy Owl, *Nyctea nivea*, Gray. In accordance with the severity of the weather, this owl comes down to latitude 42° about the end of December, remaining about the fields and woodlands until the middle of February, if the temperature is mild. This bird has been seen in summer on the mountain regions on the Upper Godbout, where they are supposed to breed. We wish to obtain additional observations regarding the summer habits of this species.

The Hawk Owl, *Surnia ulula*, Bonaparte. Arrives about latitude 46° in October and November, sometimes in great numbers. We want some definite knowledge respecting the nesting localities of this species. Has its nest been found in Canada? Mr. Henry Reeks, F.L.S., an Ornithologist who remained two years on Newfoundland, says that it is, perhaps, the most common owl on the island, remaining there throughout the year. They occur abundantly along the southern coast of Labrador during the latter month, returning north as the weather moderates.

The Banded three-toed Woodpecker, *Picoides hirsutus*, Vieill. We have not yet noticed this bird in the Province of Quebec, but Mr. Reeks says that although not common, it is non-migratory on the Island of Newfoundland. We have found the nest of its congener *P. arcticus* on the 3rd of June, about two degrees north of Montreal; and, doubtless the nest of *P. hirsutus* may be obtained during the latter month in Newfoundland. Its discovery would be a rare prize to the Oölogist.

The Striped three-toed Woodpecker, *Picoides dorsalis*, Baird. I found one specimen of this species north of the City of Quebec, and it is probable that it breeds in the same latitude as *P. arcticus*. Can any Ornithologist give additional information regarding its summer habitat?

The Whip-poor-Will, *Antrostomus vociferus*, Bonaparte. Occurs rarely in the Province of Quebec. I heard its call on a mountain adjacent to Lake Beauport, near Quebec, which is probably its most northern range. Has its nest been found in latitude 45°?

The Winter Wren, *Troglodytes hyemalis*, Vieill. Has the nest of this delightful songster been found in the Province of Quebec? Mr. Reeks says it is common, and a resident throughout the year in Newfoundland. I have seen it on Mount Royal in spring, but could not discover the nest. I saw it also at Godbout, on the Lower St. Lawrence in June, where it doubtless breeds.

The Red-bellied Nuthatch, *Sitta Canadensis*, Linn. This bird is common in our woods in spring; has the nest been discovered in New Brunswick, Ontario or Quebec?

The Hudsonian Titmouse, *Parus Hudsonicus*, Forster. This Titmouse appears in latitude 56° about the beginning of October, generally in company with the Genus *Regulus* and *Pinicola*. On the approach of spring, the Hudsonian Titmouse returns to high latitudes

to breed. Mr. Reeks mentions it as common, and non-migratory in Newfoundland and Audubon, I believe, was the first lucky man who found the nest of this species. A youth residing at Godbout discovered the second, last year. Who will find the next? Now, that Newfoundland, is to be traversed by the iron horse, many facilities will be offered to reach the *habitat* of *this* and many other rare northern species. We are anxious to hear more of this Titmouse and its nest, which is so elaborately described by Audubon.

The Pine Grosbeak, *Pinicola Canadensis*, Briss. Mr. Reeks tells us that this Grosbeak, is common in Newfoundland throughout the year. It must, therefore, bring forth its young there. It ranges south to latitudes 43° or, probably, further in severe winters. Has the nest been discovered in Canada, or did anyone notice the bird in our forests during summer?

The Semipalmated or Ring Plover, *Aegialitis semipalmatus*, Bonaparte. This beach bird breeds on Newfoundland. Did any Oölogist find its nest of late in Canada? They bred during Audubon's time, on the north coast of the Lower St. Lawrence.—C.

MONTREAL BRANCH, ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.

The eighty-seventh meeting of this Society was held at the residence of the President, H. H. Lyman, Esq., on the 7th January last.

Mr. G. J. Bowles, read a paper, entitled "The Pickled Fruit Fly," *Drosophila ampelophila*, Leow, giving a description of this curious insect, illustrated by drawings under the microscope of the larva and pupa, and specimens of the fly. It is of the same genus as the well-known "Wine Fly," and has somewhat similar habits.

A letter from W. H. Edwards, of Coalburgh, Virginia, was read, enquiring about the forms of *Lycæna lucia* found at Montreal. Many specimens of the butterfly were examined, and the conclusion arrived at that the commonest form at Montreal, was not the type, but a variety, intermediate between the type and *violaceu*.

A large collection of rare and beautiful SpHINGIDÆ and other Lepidoptera were exhibited by the President.

The eighty-eighth meeting was held on 14th February, at the residence of the Secretary.

Mr. G. J. Bowles, read a paper on the "Genera *Hepialus* and *Sthenopsis*," noting the capture here last summer of a very rare moth, *H. thule*, Streeker, only one other specimen of which is known to be in collections.

Mr. J. G. Jack, exhibited some large larvae, supposed to be *Hepialide*, still alive in their tunnels, bored in the roots of swamp-maple.

The President communicated some interesting particulars regarding *Callimorpha* and other Bombycids, which he had gathered during a recent visit to the museums in Boston.

Several boxes of Lepidoptera were exhibited, and some species new to this locality noted.

Thomas Craig, Esq., and W. W. Dunlop, Esq., were added to the roll of the Society at this meeting.

ORNITHOLOGY OF THE ISLAND OF MONTREAL.

By ERNEST D. WINTLER.

(Continued.)

97. *Bubo Virginianus*, Great-Horned Owl. Autumn and winter visitant.
98. *Scops asio*, Mottled Owl. Autumn, and winter visitant.
99. *Otus vulgaris*, Long-eared Owl. Summer and winter resident; breeds here occasionally.
100. *Buccephalus palustris*. Short-eared Owl. Casual visitant.
101. *Syrnium cinereum*, Great gray Owl. A beautiful specimen was shot near the wheel-house on the 11th of February.
102. *Syrnium nebulosum*, Barred Owl. Autumn visitant.
103. *Nyctea nivea*. Snow Owl. Autumn, and winter visitant. One specimen shot opposite Nun's Island on the 11th of February.
104. *Surnia Hudsonica*, Hawk Owl. Winter visitant.
105. *Nyctale Richardsonii*, Richardson's or Tengmalm's owl. Winter visitant.
106. *Nyctale Acadica*, Acadia Owl. Winter visitant.

FALCONIDÆ (DIURNÆ).—HURDS OF PREY.

107. *Circus Hudsonius*, Marsh Hawk. Immature birds common. Adults very rare.
108. *Accipiter fuscus*, Sharp-shinned Hawk. Common.
109. *Accipiter atricapillus*, Goshawk. Rare visitant.
110. *Falco communis (anatum)* Duck Hawk. Very rare visitant.
111. *Falco sparverius*, Sparrow Hawk. Not common.
112. *Buteo borealis*, Red-tailed Buzzard. Rare, 1 specimen shot in autumn of 1881.
113. *Buteo lineatus*, Red-shouldered Buzzard. Most common Hawk. Breeds in April.
114. *Buteo Swainsoni*, Swainson's Buzzard. Rare visitant.

115. *Buteo Pennsylvanicus*, Broad-winged Buzzard. Not common.

116. *Archibuteo lagopus*, Rough-legged Buzzard. Rare visitor in fall.

117. *Pandion haliaetus*, Fish Hawk. Rare visitor in summer.

118. *Haliaetus leucocephalus*, Bald Eagle. Rare visitor.

COLUMBIDÆ.—PIGEONS.

119. *Ectopistes migratorius*, Wild Pigeon. Not common. Spring and autumn visitor.

TETRAONIDÆ.—GROUSE, etc.

120. *Bonasa umbellus*, Ruffed Grouse. Abundant in food producing localities. Summer and winter resident. Nests in April.

CHARADRIIDÆ.—PLOVERS.

121. *Squatula helvetica*, Black-bellied Plover. Spring and autumn migrant.

122. *Charadrius Virginicus*, Golden Plover. Spring and autumn migrant.

123. *Agialitis vociferus*, Killdeer Plover. Not common. A few breed here.

124. *Agialitis Wilsonius*, Wilson's Plover. Casual visitor.

125. *Agialitis semipalmatus*, Semipalmated Plover, or Ringneck. Spring and autumn visitor.

126. *Agialitis melodus*, Piping Plover, or Ringneck. Spring and autumn visitor.

127. *Agialitis cantianus*, Snowy Plover. Rare visitor.

SCOTOPACIDÆ.—SNIPES, etc.

128. *Phalaropus minor*, American Woodcock. Arrives beginning of April; a few pairs remain throughout the summer and probably breed here.

129. *Gallinago Wilsoni*, Wilson's Snipe. Spring and autumn migrant.

130. *Macrophthalmus griseus*, Red-breasted Snipe. Spring and autumn visitor. Rare.

131. *Tringa minutilla*, Least Sandpiper. Spring and autumn migrant.

132. *Tringa maculata*, Pectoral Sandpiper. Spring and autumn visitor.

133. *Totanus flavipes*, Yellow-shanks. Spring and autumn visitor.

134. *Totanus solitarius*, Solitary Tattler. Spring visitor.

135. *Totanus melanoleucus*, Greater Tattler. Rare in spring; the young common in autumn.

136. *Tringoides macularius*, Spotted Sandpiper. Summer resident. Nests beginning of June.

ARDEIDÆ.—HERONS.

137. *Ardea herodias*, Great Blue Heron. Spring and summer visitor. Young common in the fall.

138. *Nycticorax grisea*, Night Heron. Summer resident. Nests end of May on Nun's Island, above Victoria bridge.

139. *Botaurus minor*, Bittern. Summer resident. Nests end of May.

RALIDÆ.—RAILS, etc.

140. *Rallus elegans*, Fresh-water Marsh Hen. Summer resident. Nests beginning of June.

141. *Rallus Virginianus*, Virginia Rail. Summer resident. Nests beginning of June.

142. *Porzana Carolina*, Carolina Rail. Summer resident. Nests beginning of June.

143. *Fulica Americana*, Coot. Summer resident. Nests beginning of June.

ANATIDÆ.—GEESE, DUCKS, etc.

144. *Branta Canadensis*, Canada Goose. Spring and autumn migrant.

145. *Anas boschas*, Mallard. Casual visitor.

146. *Anas obscura*, Black Duck. Summer resident. A few breed here in April.

147. *Dafila acuta*, Pintail; Sprigtail. Not common.

148. *Mareca Americana*, American Widgeon; Baldpate. Casual visitor.

149. *Querquedula Carolinensis*, Green-winged Teal. Spring and autumn migrant.

150. *Querquedula discors*, Blue-winged Teal. Spring and autumn migrant.

151. *Spatula clypeata*, Shoveller. Rare visitor.

152. *Aix sponsa*, Wood Duck. Summer resident.

153. *Fuligula marila*, Greater Bluebill. Spring and autumn migrant.

154. *Fuligula affinis*, Lesser Bluebill. Spring and autumn migrant.

155. *Fuligula Americana*, Redhead. Spring and autumn migrant.

156. *Fuligula vallisneria*, Canvas-back. Shot at Lake St. Louis in the fall.

157. *Bucephala clangula*, Golden-eyed Duck. Spring and autumn migrant.

158. *Bucephala albeola*, Buffalo-headed Duck. Spring and autumn.

159. *Mergus merganser*, Merganser. Common in spring and autumn.

160. *Mergus serrator*, Red-breasted Merganser. Spring and autumn migrant.

161. *Mergus cucullatus*, Hooded Merganser. Rare during spring and autumn.

LARIDÆ.—GULLS, TERNS, etc.

162. *Larus marinus*, Great Black-backed Gull. Rare during spring and autumn.

163. *Larus argentatus*, Herring Gull. Common Gull. Young birds occur during spring.

164. *Larus Philadelphia*, Bonaparte's Gull. Young birds occur in autumn.

165. *Sterna hirundo*, Common Tern. Spring and autumn visitor.

166. *Sterna superciliosa*, Least Tern. Rare spring and autumn visitor.

COLUMBIDÆ.—LOONS.

167. *Columba torquatus*, Great Northern Diver. Occurs in the St. Lawrence in spring.

PODICIPIDÆ.—GREBS.

168. *Podilymbus podiceps*, Pied-billed Grebe. Summer resident. Breeds here.

The above together with the interesting list of Birds, collected by Professor Macoun at Belleville, with notes by Professor Bell, of Albert University; published in "THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST," in the November number of 1881, will, I trust, induce others to publish lists of birds occurring in their localities. Such records are valuable for reference, regarding the geographical range of the species.

Correspondence.

"CRACK" AND OTHER "SHOTS."

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST:—

"It is generally the *mistaken* idea of those who are no judges of shooting, that if a man kills a certain number of times without missing, he is to be put down as a first-rate shot; and that another person, because he has been seen to miss, is to be considered as his inferior."—COL. HAWKER.

There is, no doubt, a large amount of charlatanism in the pretensions of a *soi-disant* "crack shot," an illustration of which I may superadd to the cases alluded to in your last impression. I knew a gentleman, in England, who was said never to miss a shot; and he never, or "hardly ever," did. But then his *modus operandi* was as follows: he rarely pulled trigger on a bird at a greater distance than from 30 to 40 yards, and he scarcely ever even aimed at a bird that flew away to the right. I refer now to Partridge-shooting, and I need not say, that a very ordinary marksman ought seldom to miss a bird flying straight away from him, or to his left, at 30 yards. I knew another gentleman, a distinguished sportsman, who, although an excellent shot, *did*, and not infrequently, fail to bag a bird he shot at; but, *his* style was somewhat different. He had a keeper always at his elbow with a *seco d* gun, and, having brought down his birds, right and left, with the first, the second, one of Lancaster's No 3, with steel barrels, was placed in his hands, and he *often* bagged a second brace, *generally* a third bird, from one covey. An excellent test of accuracy of aim may be demonstrated in the Old Country by paying a visit, in a boat, to the caves with which the rock-bound coast of Kerry, Ireland, is indented, and which are the haunts of seals, of many varieties of wild-fowl, and Rock-pigeons, *Columba livia*. Send a man in a spare boat into one of these caves, and the pigeons, called also Sea-pigeons, will fly out with meteor-like rapidity; and to drop them as they wing their way *towards you*, will put to the proof the accuracy of your eye and the

steadiness of your nerves. How different and how superior this sport to the almost mechanical process of firing at the same birds from a trap. *Appropos* of trap-shooting, I once saw a number of school boys in a field, in England, some with guns in their hands, and some with baskets. I stopped to watch them, and found that they were about to engage in a pigeon-shooting match. A bird was trapped; the word was given; the trap was sprung; the pigeon was on the wing; a gun was discharged; and down came the bird, wounded, as I supposed, for it lay fluttering on the ground. To my astonishment, however, a boy ran up, seized the pigeon, and *trapped it again*. Explanation: the unhappy bird had a long slender string attached to its leg, and when it was not hit, it was *pulled down*, and submitted to another ordeal. Such is sport as some define the term! V. CLEMENTI.

Peterboro, February 20, 1882.

A BOY'S ENCOUNTER WITH A BEAR.

SIR,—The following true account of an adventure with a bear may be of interest to your readers. In August last, a boy about twelve years of age, living within seven miles from this place, started for the woods one morning in search of his father's cows. He had with him a shot-gun, and was accompanied by a dog; having entered the woods a short distance, the dog, which had hitherto kept close to his heels, bounded suddenly away and was soon lost to view. Thinking there was game ahead, he followed as fast as his short legs and the bushes would permit in the direction the dog had taken. On reaching a place where the undergrowth was thick and tangled, an animal rushed past him at a speed too great to enable him to see what it was; he then became alarmed and began to beat a retreat, and well he did so, for at this moment the ugly visage of a bear approached. Between fright, and a desire to get home, (just then,) the boy succeeded in reaching a more open space before Bruin caught up to him. He then turned around and as her ladyship raised to give him a fond embrace, the little fellow dashed the gun into her face, having forgotten in the excitement of the moment that it was loaded. This seemed to disconcert the bear a little, and the youth started to run in another direction, but was almost immediately pursued. Having to scramble over a large hemlock log, the bark gave way and he rolled over, being partly

covered with the debris. As he raised himself, Bruin stooped above him, seeming quite surprised at his appearance; but, as he again started off, she gave chase, and had nearly overtaken him, when he took off his hat and threw it at her; this stayed her progress for a few seconds, and the boy took advantage of the delay by starting to climb a small ironwood tree, but none to soon: the first dash Bruin made for him as he was going up, left some ugly scratches on his boot. However he succeeded in reaching a limb about ten feet from the ground, over which he placed one leg. A short time afterwards, Bruin started up after him; and, although the tree was only about five inches in diameter, she succeeded in getting up beneath him. His free leg now came into use, and with all his force he kicked her on the nose and jaw; one unlucky aim, however, sent his foot into her mouth, but she only succeeded in tearing off a portion of the boot with which she descended to the ground, where she thoroughly examined her prize. After this, she proceeded to climb an adjacent tree, the trunk of which leaned in the direction of the one in which the boy was placed. She soon reached a point almost over his head, about twelve feet from him. Fearing she would drop down, he lowered himself to the ground, but was again obliged to ascend, as Bruin came down also. This operation was repeated several times, and it is uncertain how the adventure would have ended, had the boy not succeeded in attracting the attention of a man working in a clearing near by, whose arrival, with his dog, caused the bear to move away. On arriving home, the canine companion of the boy was found with the skin torn from one side of his face. The dog must have been the fleeing object that passed him just before he encountered the bear, and her persistency in following the boy, may be attributed to being enraged beforehand.

R. B. SCRIVEN.

Gravenhurst, Ont., 8th February, 1882.

THE PILEATED WOODPECKER.

In No. 12, Vol. I, you ask your readers for information regarding the nesting habits of (*Hylotanus pilatus*.) In reply to this query, let me say that the nesting habits of this species, differ little from those of the most common of the Woodpeckers; except that the

cavity which it forms for nesting, is of course larger, and generally in a large tree, deep in the woods and high off the ground. I have seen several trees which at different times contained the nest of this species, though I have not obtained the eggs. More than twenty years ago, when I was a boy, residing in the township of Peel, and while engaged in sugar making, I noticed a pair of these birds at the work of nest building, in the trunk of a large beech tree about fifty feet from the ground. This, was, I think, in the latter part of April. In May, the female was hatching, for when the tree was struck with a stick, she would dart out and shortly afterwards return to the nest. In June both birds were constantly seen going in and out of the nest, evidently attending to the wants of the young. While the female was incubating, the loud call of her mate might often be heard in the vicinity. Afterwards in the winter season when the tree was chopped down, I examined the cavity, and found it large enough to contain the body of a grouse. Among the early pioneers this bird was called the "Woodcock," and not until, in after years when I began to study the works of Ornithologists, did I know the true Woodcock to be a very different bird. This bird is the most retired and solitary in its habits of all the Woodpeckers; and, but for its loud, monotonous and exciting call, would scarcely be known to exist. This "outburst" is occasionally heard resounding through the dark pine and hemlock woods, while the feathered hermit is on the top of some lofty tree in the depths of the forest. The call is sometimes heard in mid-winter as well as in the summer season; but it is most frequently heard in early spring or late in the fall, and is by some supposed to indicate a change of weather. The favorite habitat of this bird is the high rolling, hardwood forests, where there is an intermingling of evergreens and the sound of rushing waters and though it may occasionally feed on seeds, fruit, &c., yet its chief food appears to be the larger species of insects and worms which it procures from the bark and trunks of decayed trees. When two of these birds meet—as they sometimes do—while in search of food, on the trunk of a large tree, especially an old hemlock or pine, they soon strip it of its bark and leave the giant of the forest a monument of their strength and industry.

NATURALIST.

Listowell, Ont., February 3, 1882.

A GENERAL DELUGE.

(Continued from page 104.)

The American continent bears unmistakable traces of a race who lived contemporaneous with those people. They, too, were mound, pyramid and artificial lake builders; they were sun-worshippers, as were those who reached Asia, and, like them had their idols, to whom they made animal and human sacrifices; they faced the east in their worship, and buried their dead looking the same direction, and each had a large array of priests who administered to their gods; each employed ornamented funeral urns in which they deposited the ashes of their worthy dead, and each used the phallic emblem in the same manner. In short, each were parts of the great wave of humanity, going out of a common centre, one rolling eastward, the other westward, to escape a then impending calamity. Each had similar features† and similar forms of expression; each carried forward a similar civilization; each had made similar advances in mineralogy; each employed the now lost art of hardening copper for stone-cutting, and used the precious metals for ornamentation. And, to climax the whole, each had a written language.‡ Famine, pestilence, and exterminating war, an overwhelming ocean wave, or some other direful calamity swept all away. His labors only remain to tell that he has been. Savage man, from some

† In an excavation made in the lower stage, or esplanade of the principal mound, I found embedded in the walls of the cut, and so firmly fixed in the wall that it was with difficulty extracted, the head of an idol with Asiatic features. * * It would be of thrilling interest to be able to ascertain how the conception of the Asiatic face originated.—S. B. Evans in his letter of May 25th, 1881; to the Chicago Times, describing his visit to the pyramid of Cholula, Mexico.

‡ Their monuments indicate that they had entered upon a career of civilization; they lived in stationary communities, cultivating the soil and relying on its generous yield for support; they clothed themselves, in part at least, in garments regularly spun and woven; they modeled clay and carved stone, even of the most obdurate characters, into images representing animate objects, including even the human face and form, with a close adherence to nature; they mined and cast copper in a variety of useful forms; they quarried mica, steatite, chert and the novaculite slates, which they wrought into articles adapted to personal adornment, to domestic use, or to the chase; they collected brine of the salines into earthen vessels, moulded in baskets which they evaporated into a form which admitted of transportation; they erected an elaborate line of defence stretching for many hundred miles, to guard against the sudden irruption of enemies; they had a national religion, in which the elements were the objects of supreme adoration; temples were erected upon the platform mounds, and watch-fires lighted upon the highest summits; and in the celebration of the mysteries of their faith, human sacrifices were probably offered.—Foster's Pre-Historic Races of the United States, pp. 350 and 351.

(To be continued.)

less favored region, gained control, and intruded his dead into the mounds and places of sepulchre of the lost, and now, so far as America is concerned, wholly extinct race.

The antiquarian and scientist, and the theologian as well, should cease investigations among the ruins of Asia for the birthplace of humanity, but such may, with profit, find a perfect resemblance between ancient Asiatic and American civilizations, and almost demonstrate that the latter is coeval with or antedates the former by thousands of years; that the western is quite as old as the eastern hemisphere, and that here has been wrought changes of which the human mind has but a feeble conception; that the marks of an ancient and advanced civilization all around us give indications of still older ones which cycles of submergence and emergence are ever developing to observing man; and which, if human records could be preserved through all the mutations of time, would ultimately reveal much that at present is concealed from the earnest investigator.

In a preceding article we stated that even scientists, had claimed too brief a period for the age of the earth. A hundred thousand years leave but trifling changes on the earth's surface, when the vast whole is taken into account. A portion of a continent may be engulfed and another may emerge from the ocean; new islands may appear, or seas be drained, but the general appearance will remain the same. The changes are not so marked or frequent now as during earlier periods, when the internal heat was greater, the surface thinner, and the shock was more universal.

Geologists, as if fearful that a statement of the long period which has elapsed since the earth was a molten incandescent mass, revolving on its own axis, as well as round the sun, carrying with it several satellites, all of which, save the moon, have been completely swallowed up and lost in the parent earth, are content to demonstrate the thousands of years which would be required to silt up the valley of the Nile; to show how vast a period would be required for the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri, and the tributaries, to fill up an arm of the ocean from Cairo to the Gulf of Mexico; to abrade the rock of Niagara and form the mighty chasm, more than two hundred feet in depth, and seven miles in length, through which flow the waters of the great lakes on their way to the ocean; or to build up a chalk cliff nearly a mile in height, as found in England, from minute shells of microscopic animalculæ.

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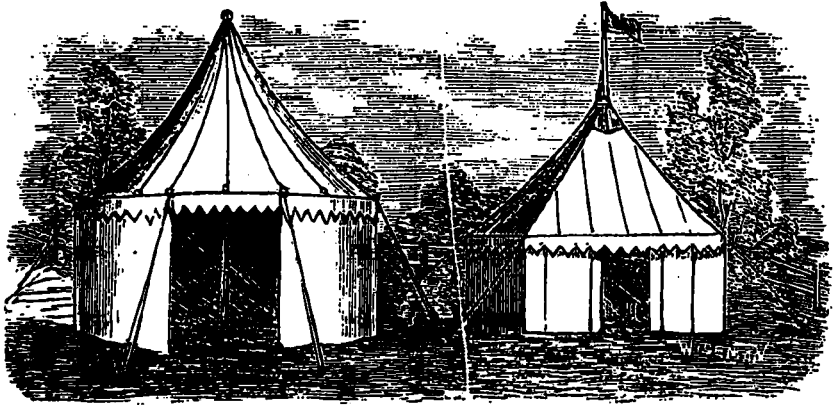
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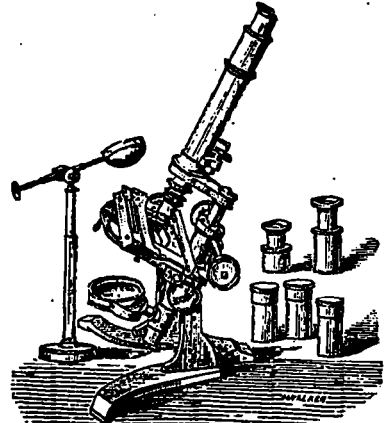
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