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THE

CHAMPLAIN SPORTS AND MINING



NATURALIST

A
MONTHLY
JOURNAL



VOL. II.
No. 1.
1882.

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THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

No. 1.

MONTREAL, JANUARY, 1882.

Vol. 11.

WILLIAM COUPER, Editor.

OUR NEW TITLE-PAGE.

Our readers will, no doubt, be pleased with the improvement which we have made in our Title-page. The design is by Mr. A. F. Dunlop, Architect, and the engraving by Mr. J. L. Wiseman, both of this city. The work reflects credit on the skill of the artists.

KILLING FISH BY DYNAMITE.

The residents of Indiana have been making use of the above explosive to kill fish. The shock destroys hundreds of marketable fishes, but at the same time there are thousands of young fish killed and allowed to decay in the water. The destructiveness of this method is so great that popular indignation should arise against it. We have been informed that the unmarketable fishes thus destroyed by dynamite in the White-water River, Ill., were seen floating in the river and its tributaries fully forty miles from the scene of the explosion. We have some knowledge of a similar experiment to kill fish in Canadian waters. The party who tried it, made the first attempt at Quebec. Americans to-day would call such a man "crank," and although we have frequently remarked "daff" moments in his dealings, he was determined and had energy as a fishmonger. The material had to be obtained to supply his customers, and as he could not procure sufficient by net process he thought of trying the dynamite one. On a beautiful summer's morning, he arose from his bed in Blanchard's Hotel, and taking a handsome trout rod in hand, proceeded to the Custom-house wharf, alongside of which lay a small trading schooner. The dynamite fish-killer tripped lightly on board the vessel, and having quietly adjusted the explosive to a line attached to the fishing rod, the experiment began; but the Skipper, who was in his berth, hearing light

footsteps on board his craft—came forth from his cabin just at the instant of the explosion to find the schooner and himself thrown partially on the wharf. Of course the Skipper asked him "what you do there," but he coolly answered that "he was fishing," that a large fish took hold of his bait, and the line and a great portion of his twelve dollar rod were gone. The turmoil being over and the experimenter having quickly disappeared from the scene, the matter ended, but it must be remembered that he had an object in view and that was to discover if he could procure fish in large quantities by a cheap and easy process. This was his first trial with the dangerous article, and we cannot say that he tried dynamite again, but the intentions of this fish-monger were to dynamite the Trout Lakes of our Laurentide mountains, in order to procure large quantities of fish to supply the demand of the American market. He failed, however, as every man will, who uses uniataral or unlawful modes to catch his game. We have had accounts of large quantities of small fishes belonging to several species having been seen dead on the waters of Lake Ontario, and even in the Lower St. Lawrence, but no one has given a proper cause for the mortality. We are told that some years ago, the Norway Haddock (*Sebastes Norvegicus*) appeared in thousands opposite Metis, but they were all dead. Millions of Sticklebacks have been seen on the surface of the salt water in the Lower St. Lawrence, but what killed them is a mystery. Some attribute it to aqueous earthquakes producing sulphureous gases. Water may be poisoned in many ways; we know that lime when cast into the upper portion or source of a trout stream, will, in a short time, kill every fish in it. Fresh cut pine saw-dust when thrown into a river, becomes disagreeable to fish; but this dust produces greater harm when it accumulates, for saw-

dust will go together even under water, and we have known instances on the Ottawa when the acid and pyroligneous carbon exploded in winter sending the ice into thousands of pieces.—C.

HATCHING SALMON.

The Government of the Dominion devotes a large amount of money annually for fish hatching, and a few men derive a very comfortable living from the business. But we doubt that since the hatcheries were erected the species of fishes hatched therein have increased to be of additional commercial value. What has become of the thousands of young fishes which were planted in Lake Ontario? Were any of them seen since? What have they produced? These are important questions to ask. The hatching establishment at Newcastle must make some kind of show, and the employees have to exhibit a little energy in order that the Government may see that they are working for their money. This is all very well if anything could be shown for the outlay. We say that nothing of apparent value has as yet been derived from hatching Salmon in Canada. On the contrary, the adult fish are taken from one river and killed to procure *ova* that other rivers may be stocked; yet the hatching of Salmon has been going on for years in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and the fish are becoming scarcer year after year. This is pointedly the case on the south coast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where Salmon hatching houses are situated. It is true that there is too much netting and too many weirs set up in the tidal waters which are destructive to all marine fishes, and the Salmon have to suffer from these causes, but we deprecate against the evil mode in which adult Salmon are taken from their native river to procure material for the imaginary purposes of increasing the species. It is cruel, for the fishes are destroyed in the process, besides it is manifest that Salmon should be planted in a river, the water

of which is disagreeable to them. Of course the Fishery officials will say that we know nothing about hatching Salmon. True, we have not been in the business but possess a knowledge of the operations. There is this argument however, in our favour, that is to say, it is interfering with a course of nature, which if allowed to proceed in the old way would doubtless show that it is wrong. The object of these fish-breeders may be to make new species by transporting and transmuting. They would like to make a new species of Salmon (in fact, that has been tried already; it however turned out to be old *Salmo salar* after all), but it is impossible, the process is not natural. Instead of changing the form or flavour or increasing the true Salmon, they are merely helping to produce deperdition, and we wonder that the system has been so long allowed. It would be far better for the Government and the country to devote a portion or all of the money expended on hatching fish, to make the rivers easy for Salmon to reach their natural spawning-grounds. Artificial fish-leaps should be made in several rivers along the North Shore of the Lower St. Lawrence. If such work was taken in hand, there are several rivers now almost worthless that could be made profitable, and the Fishery Department are cognizant of the fact. The late Rev. Dr. Adamson, published a pamphlet on this subject. We have spoken of it before, but the Department will take neither advice nor instruction from any man—not even a lessee of a river, who, in many cases, knows more about it than they do. To show the cruelty and destruction of the fish culturists, we here take the liberty to quote from the *St. John News* of August 1881, where the editor attacks Professor Hind's theory regarding the migration of Salmon. We have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Hind when Professor of Chemistry in Trinity College, Toronto, and have read some curious statements in regard to his knowledge of Natural History since he removed to Nova Scotia; but it matters not, we

have some consideration for Professor Hind's investigations regarding the noble fish, and when he wrote of the migration of Salmon, depend on it, he was not far astray. His knowledge of Natural History cannot be pool-pooled by any penny-liner. We also can vouch for the fact that sea-trout and brook-trout enter the upper waters of *all* Salmon rivers, for two purposes, (as they are parasites on their own genera), to destroy the eggs and fry of *Salmo salar*. The Salmon fry allowed to escape from the hatcheries in New Brunswick, have been devoured by trout immediately after being deposited by the officer. "F. L." a correspondent to the *St. John Telegraph*, makes this statement, and we can corroborate it. The system of netting the pools to supply the hatcheries with *ova* is destruction to the parent fish, as we find that it takes 500 females to supply *ova* for the first start of a single hatchery, and we are informed that there are four hatcheries at present operated in the Lower Provinces. Then, taking these at 500 each hatchery, it is requisite that 2,000 female fish are annually destroyed in the spring in order to keep these officials going; and besides, it is necessary that a certain number of males should be obtained to fertilize the *ova*. What a destruction of fish? which if allowed to pass up to their natural spawning-grounds, would in the true course of nature, produce more genuine Salmon than all the hatcheries in the Dominion. What cruelty? What waste? Now we have proof of what we say! We wish this business ended!! Are there no scientific men in Parliament? Cannot some one stand up for the rights of truth; If not, then farewell to our Salmon fisheries; farewell to the Salmon hatcheries; and farewell to the Fishery Department.—C.

SPORT AND SPORTSMEN.

What is "sport" and who are "sportsmen?" appears to be peculiarly defined by European and American writers. There is a vast difference between play and pastime for a consider-

ation, and diversion, or properly speaking the pleasure a man acquires when he turns aside from his every day duties to go off to the woods, prairies or marshes in search of game. A sportsman is a man of activity, fond of hunting and fishing, willing to pay freely for his privileges. He disdains unlawful acts and always has an eye on the pot-hunter. The gambler is not his companion; his associates are always gentlemen. Such a man is a true sportsman—a lover of legitimate sport. What then constitutes "sport?" It consists virtually in the relief of man from business confinement, that recreation may be obtained with rod and gun, in the woods, on the lakes or along the river banks. "sport" is what we call fair play between "man and beast;" and the man who stands by this motto will never feel ashamed of his position. It is said that Fox and Otter hunting constitutes "sport," and we have nothing to say against it, because they show fair play, and the chase does not arise from mercenary motives. Nothing of this nature has so far appeared among the Fox-hunters of Canada, and as regards the Otter its venation is not carried out here as in Scotland. It occurs to us that the word "sport" is not properly rendered. It is said to be "a diversion, pastime, jest, game or jingle," and it is evident that on the strength of this broad definition, editors of American sporting papers allow their columns to be filled with pastimes under the heads of horse and boat-racing, cock-fighting and other gambling jingles, games, jests, pastimes or diversions, none of which have a tendency to elevate mankind. We are not anxious to make the acquaintance of men who will publish and circulate this kind of literature; our aim is to serve a far higher type of mankind. We appreciate athletic sports—it is a grand idea of the young men of Canada to emulate the strong Roman—the youths who will perform on the cross-bar without the "bar," will eventually come out without a scany. The pastime of a young man devoting

a portion of his leisure to the study of Natural History is "sport."—we appreciate his enthusiasm when he enters the woods with insect-net in hand—he has no mercenary objects in view, but a love of study. The student of Geology, Conchology and Botany, and the man who rambles through the fields to procure something to instruct his brother does good and enjoys "sport." Then, in the name of all that is human, why should the word "sport" be associated with such unnatural proceedings as cock-fighting, killing salmon to take their progeny from them; injuring high-bred horses by racing, or gambling in any form, be encouraged in Canada.

The first volume of THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST, the only journal in Canada devoted to the lovers of the rod and gun, suffices to illustrate what we intend to follow up, and despite whatever opposition we may receive hereafter from pseudo Canadian Sporting papers, the pages of our periodical will not be contaminated by productions that are not fit to be read by the most fastidious man or woman.—C.

THE INFLUENCE OF SPORT.

To those who are not in the habit of using the gun or fishing-rod it may appear strange that a certain number of their fellow beings have such a fondness for the pleasures of the chase. By some the amusement may be considered childish, by others cruel; yet there is, perhaps, no pastime more calculated to develop a manliness of character than the art of shooting or fishing as practised by a lover of these sports. That, which at one time was the principal occupation of our forefathers, has now become a popular diversion, indulged in by all classes from the peasant to the peer; royalty itself has not been proof against its attractions, and the pleasures of court have been forsaken for the excitement of moor. We need not wonder at the fascination which the forest has for the hunter, or the river or brook for the disciple of "Walton." The pleasures of cast-

ing for trout, or playing the noble salmon, afford opportunities for the display of more manly qualities than a novice is apt to suspect. Patience and judgment, as well as a certain degree of skill, are requisite to success; and who will say that these are not equally essential in other pursuits in life? A love of nature is usually combined with a love for sport; the wanderer in the forest becomes attached to her solitudes, he derives instruction as well as amusement from a contemplation of her works, while the prosecution of his sport affords him at the same time that invigorating exercise so necessary to the enjoyment of health.

WALLACE.

THE PETER REDPATH MUSEUM.

This handsome building which will be hereafter looked on with pride by the inhabitants of Montreal, is situated a short distance from McGill University, to which it is attached for museum educational purposes. The college collection of specimens, in a geological and paleontological view, are extensive, and when arranged in the new building, will be seen to advantage. The Carpenter collection of shells will also form a grand feature of interest both to student and visitor. Dr. Dawson, we are told, will add his own private collection, and a large donation of specimens will be added as soon as the museum is ready for occupation. Montreal will then have a thorough educational museum of Natural History, and the only one in Canada that can compare with some of the Collegiate Museums of the United States. It is expected to be open by the time the American Science Association meets here in August.

What will the Natural History Society of Montreal do when the Peter Redpath Museum opens free to the public? Will they be able to keep up their establishment on the present nominal public charge of admission, a small membership, and a poor government grant? We doubt if they can, and being aware that they would be apt to be willing to amalgamate

with the Fraser Institute, would it not be a good move on the part of the Council of the Natural History Society to make the same offer to the authorities of McGill University? By so doing, the collections in the Peter Reilpath Museum would at once become most extensive, and doubly instructive, in fact the best on this continent. The Geological Museum at Ottawa could not make a comparison with it. We throw out this hint that the matter may be ventilated by those who are interested in it. Unless something of this nature takes place it is seemingly evident that the dissolution of the Society is merely a matter of time. The new museum is only a short distance from the old. The former will be visited by thousands of the inhabitants and visitors to the city, while the old Society must continue to charge for membership and the entrance of strangers. Then we say that the Natural History Society of Montreal should cast away its fossil condition and join an institution with some vitality in it.—C.

Correspondence.

ENTOMOLOGY.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST:—

SIR,—I have received the November number of your valuable journal, containing a very friendly and favorable notice of Transactions No. 2 of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club. In this review exception is taken to names of two weevils which are mentioned in my paper on Coleoptera, injurious to the Pine. The first complaint is that *Polydrosus elegans*, Couper, is given as *Scythropus elegans*, Couper, according to Crotch's revised Check List. As this list gives the *Rhyacophora* according to recent classification, and was issued under the supervision of LeConte and Horn, the blame, if any, of changing this beautiful beetle's generic name, must rest upon their broad shoulders. I may say, however, that in your description of this beetle (published in Canadian Naturalist, 1865,) you give it as *Poly-*

drosus? elegans, and at the close of this description add that LeConte does not think it a *Polydrosus*. As regards *Hyllobius Stupidus*, Sch., my defence is equally simple. The species is given in the printed lists of the Entomological Society as found in Canada, and my beetles were named by careful comparison with a specimen so labelled, in the collection in possession of the Ottawa Literary and Scientific Society. This fine collection was arranged by Mr. Billings, with, if I mistake not, the assistance of Mr. Pettit and yourself. I have failed to find in THE CANADIAN NATURALIST your description of *H. pinicola*, or I should have compared my beetles with it. You state that it is strange that the species should lie dormant so long when such experienced entomologists as Mr. Billings and yourself collected together for three years around Ottawa. This certainly shows the beetle to be very rare, but does not prove its non-existence. I collected actively for three years without finding it, and have since obtained but three specimens. Mr. Fletcher during a similar term of years has not succeeded in finding one specimen. I hope shortly to have all undetermined and doubtful species named by competent authorities; until I am able to do so this beetle must rest in my collection as *H. Stupidus*.

W. HAGUE HARRINGTON.

Ottawa, 15th Dec. 1881.

NOTE.—I am satisfied with my colleague's statement regarding *Scythropus elegans*, Couper. If Dr. LeConte removed it from the genus *Polydrosus*, the matter is settled. I would, however, be pleased to have a five minutes' glance at *Hyllobius Stupidus*, Sch., as at the time I described *H. pinicola* in Transactions Literary and Historical Society, Quebec, —New Series, part 11, p. 85, 1865—I remarked that another of the same size was found in Western Canada, but with marked difference in elytral characters. I had not the Western insect to compare with my Quebec specimen. *H. pinicola* is allied to *H. arcticus* of the other continent. I have no knowledge of *H. Stupidus*, hence the remarks which led to this correspondence. I was wrong in saying that I described *pinicola* in the Canadian Naturalist and Geologist, published at Montreal.—C.

DANISH SUPERSTITION REGARDING THE CUCKOO.

Sir,—Having admitted into your journal "The Legend of the Crossbill," and a controversy regarding the Robin as "God's Bird," I think the following may interest your readers:—

On the appearance of the Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) in Denmark the village girls, in spring time, kiss their hands—addressing the bird when they hear its note—exclaiming, "Cuckoo, cuckoo, when shall I be married?" Then the old Danish folks, born down with age and rheumatism, repeat the words, "Cuckoo, cuckoo, when shall we be released from this world's care?" The bird continues to call "Cuckoo" so many times as years will elapse, evidently satisfying and dissatisfying many young and old regarding their peculiar wishes. But as some people live to a maximum age and girls may become old maids it is supposed that the poor Cuckoos are so much engaged in annually answering these superstitious people, that they have no time to build nests. Therefore, the eggs of the Cuckoo are deposited in the nest of the Hedge Sparrow (*Accentor modularis*). R. S.

Montreal, December, 1881.

NOTE.—The female Cuckoo should, in accordance with the general nature of birds, be the nest-builder, and the male is only supposed to call "cuckoo." Our correspondent evidently writes the above to show that one European legend is as good as another. They are either childish or doting thoughts compounded from a want of proper education. We do not wish to have any more of this kind of matter. Give us something original.—C.

THE ACCLIMATIZED SPARROW.

Sir,—As a lover of birds, and being a friend to that pert little bird called the European or English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), will you kindly insert in your valuable journal the following extract from the "Gardener's Chronicle," London, Eng., July, 1879, on the

USES OF THE SPARROW:

"We are sorry that Sparrows are still regarded as enemies by many of our village husbandmen; thus the overseers are yet empowered by the vestry meeting to pay one-half-

penny per head for all destroyed. It is a pity we have not yet learned more humanity, for without doubt this persecuted bird is one of the best friends both to the gardener and farmer. A calculation has been made that a pair of Sparrows destroy nearly four thousand caterpillars per week; besides other insects, while rearing their young. When Cuckoos (*Melolontha vulgaris*) abound, which happens periodically, they would speedily become a perfect pest but for the Sparrow. It is true the Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*) destroys an immense quantity, yet it should be remembered the despised Sparrow has access to gardens and other small enclosures where the Rook is denied access. The Sparrow fortunately does more for our house comfort, for he destroys one of our greatest pests, the common house-fly, which, were it not for his persistent efforts, would multiply to an alarming extent. Scarcely anything in the way of insect food comes amiss, for he is a voracious feeder. Therefore he should be regarded more as a friend than a foe."

P.S.—I believe since the above was written, the "Wild Bird's Act" protects the Sparrow.—R.S.

NOTE.—The Domestic Sparrow's habits have considerably changed since its introduction into Canada.—C.

A GENERAL DELUGE.

BY G. W. BROWN, M.D.

(Continued from page 96.)

On many of the islands of the Pacific are found traces of an ancient people who possessed an order of civilization closely resembling that of Oriental nations, as first revealed to us at the commencement of the historic period, and almost identical with those now being explored in Mexico and Yucatan, and similar to those of Peru in South America. These people passed away, as did the mound builders of our own country, leaving enduring monuments of their labors, which modern travellers look upon with astonishment, as they reveal a period of considerable advancement in the arts, and a knowledge of mechanics unknown to their degenerated successors. In support of this proposition, we make the following quotation from a newspaper article which we find floating through the press without credit, but sur-

nishing well authenticated facts of discoveries in the Pacific, a multitude of a similar character being within reach of the common reader:

"In the middle of the Pacific ocean, 3,000 miles distant from the nearest continent, lies Easter Island, abounding with remains of a remote antiquity, which have interested and perplexed a party of savants who recently visited them. This island is 40 miles in circumference, of volcanic origin, barren, no trees, destitute of resources, and inhabited by a few savages who lead the most miserable life imaginable. But upon this narrow strip of land so barren and unproductive, the explorer beholds a forest of gigantic statues, of the origin and beginning of which the race dwelling around know absolutely nothing. The smallest of these statues measured 30 feet, and a few attain the incredible dimensions of 50 feet. Some repose upon Cyclopean platforms; the greater portion of them wear crowns about six feet in height, which have evidently been placed upon these statues after their erection. The foreheads of the statues are retreating, and the mouths prominent, which indications may possibly reveal the race who constructed them. As regards the workmanship displayed upon them, it is rude and clumsy, although not destitute of character and expression. The questions concerning them presented for solution are: What do they represent? Whose handiwork are they? and how came they there? How possibly could this barren island have nourished a race of men capable of raising such monuments? Where is the race? What country do they still inhabit?"

It is well known to the antiquarian that Asia was originally populated by a black race, as is Africa in our day. These aborigines receded before the great Aryan wave which rolled down from the Northeast, driving before it the weaker, as do the same race with the Indians of America at the present time. They overran the great plains of Central Asia and made permanent homes in the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates; thence spread eastward, intermingling with the already mixed population inhabiting Iran and Hindostan, while an advanced wave, pressed by those in the rear, crossed the Isthmus of Suez, and established themselves along the Nile. These parent waves spread westward and overran Europe, with colonies to Northern Africa, everywhere destroying the males and intermingling, forming varieties of races. In process of ages the same dominant race crossed the Atlantic, to repeat the barbarities of a remote age on the natives of this country, and to efface the link which connects all these with a submerged race over which rolls in majestic and solemn grandeur the deep and surging waves of the mighty Pacific.

It is well-known to geologists that animals whose habitat was in or near the tropical regions, and distant from which they could not survive, have been found embedded in ice in the Arctic regions north of Asia.* They were

so well preserved through the countless ages since their hyperborean imprisonment that their flesh was consumed by carnivorous animals now inhabiting those regions when a warmer sun melted their encasement. This fact of itself demonstrates that the polar regions were once approximating the equatorial; for these animals could never have wandered so far from the places of their nativity. It also proves that the change from a high to a low temperature was sudden, not leaving time between for animal decay to commence after the destruction of life, and the formation of ice, by which they were preserved.

Beds of most excellent mineral coal are found in Greenland, from where it is quarried and loaded directly on ship board of exploring steamers visiting those high latitudes. It is found out-cropping from cliffs at the very margin of the sea. Whether there is more than one stratum of such coal the writer is not informed.

Twenty-eight different beds of coal, superposed one above another, with varying thickness of intervening rock and slate, have been opened and worked in Great Britain. The lowest of these is more than 5,000 feet below the present surface of the sea. This tells us, with unerring certainty, that there has been twenty-eight epochs, each of indefinite duration, when those islands were alternately above and below the sea level; periods when the earth was covered with dense verdure; when the surging ocean rolled over it, and covered that verdure with sand and gravel, the material of which overlying rock was formed; when it again emerged; was again adapted to the growth of vegetation, and again, after the lapse of countless ages, went down, and so has continued until the present order of things was introduced.

What is true of the British islands in this regard, is probably true of every other island and continent on the globe. And this oscillating condition of the earth's crust will ever go on with seas and continents while the same laws which have governed matter as in the past shall continue. To-day a continent, covered with animal and vegetable life; to-morrow the ocean rolls its turbid waves over the melancholy wreck, leaving no trace of the toil,

and sold in great plenty. He declares his belief that the bones still left in northern Russia must greatly exceed in number all the elephants now living on the globe.—*Sir Charles Lyell, in his Principles of Geology, p. 81.*

*So fresh is the ivory throughout northern Russia, that, according to Tilgusius thousands of fossil tusks have been collected and used in turning; yet others are still procured

anxiety and unbounded hopes of him who had delved to make it a satisfactory home for his ambition.

The present revealings on the surface of Greenland, where a few hundred years ago were green fields, waving forests, flowing rivers, populous and thrifty villages and a contented people, show only mountains of ice, all nature congealed, a country of desolation and snow. This change has been gradual, and the temperature is still declining.

Iceland, too, is slowly undergoing a similar change. At the same rate of decadence in another hundred years it will cease to be habitable. Already such portions of the population as have means are removing to the northern latitudes of America. The island, like Greenland, will soon be a cold and dreary desolation, to so remain until other changes shall transpire, when it may again, in a lower latitude, become the home of man; but ages of frost and ice must first mark its site; other lands in turn, now nearly tropical, must become frigid; and then it is questionable if any traces of man, even as insignificant as the stone axe or arrow head, shall remain to excite wonder or curiosity among those who shall delve in its soil.

While we can account for the gradual changing of the polarity of the earth and the shifting of climates—the glacial period always existing in some parts of the earth—we cannot, by the same mode of reasoning, explain why whole continents are suddenly submerged, or why the beds of oceans, as suddenly, become continents.

The equatorial diameter of the earth is greater than the polar by some thirty-four miles. While the centre of gravity remains as now the polar and equatorial regions will remain substantially the same; but if from any cause the polar shall preponderate, then a change in polarity will ensue. Such, without doubt, was the case when the tropical elephants were encased in the icebergs of Nova Zembla and Spitzbergen.

Mountains of ice are continually forming within the arctics. The heat of summer cannot reach them; but century after century, and age after age, the accumulation goes on, adding to the polar density. Some disturbing element as an earthquake shock convulsing the globe, a volcanic eruption and upheaval,

or the addition of some fragmentary planet or wandering body lost in space, which has been attracted from its orbit by its nearness to our earth, falls upon it, the equipoise is lost, and the waters of the ocean, seeking their plane, roll over their rocky bounds, engulf continents, and sweep away every vestige of aspiring man save the few favorable locations which accidentally escape the *general deluge* and the submergence of continents.

Such has been, such will be again and again the fate of the globe. Man beholds the traces of his labors all around him, finds everywhere, even deep down in the bowels of the earth, evidences of his great antiquity, and looks upon all as stable and enduring. He inquires of the pyramids, ascends their summits, wanders through their interior labyrinthian passages, and seeks to find the motives for their construction. He deciphers the inscriptions on their walls, and is astonished with the power and wisdom of those who made them. He finds their builders were interlopers from some other country, and at a very remote age. Human records fail to give the origin of these people, or the country from which they came. The antiquarian lends his aid. He finds the mounds and tumuli of America identical in general form, and evidently constructed for the same purpose, with those covering the vast *steppes* of Asia. The mounds are traced down the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates, and a feeble idea of their magnitude is learned by exploring the ruined temple of Belus—the wonderful tower of Babel, of biblical story—on the site of ancient Babylon. As we follow the nomadic builders of those structures we overtake them in the valley of the Nile, driving out the native blacks, as they had already done in Asia, setting up a new civilization peculiarly their own, and erecting their mounds, towers and pyramids, each step of their progress marking an improvement on the preceding, the general idea and purpose of which their remote ancestors carried out with them from a continent which was gradually submerged, the inhabitants retiring before the incoming ocean. During the long periods of their journeyings, resting for centuries by the way, and again advancing, they reached that region, foreigners on a foreign shore, where we first find them at the commencement of the historic age, making aggressive inroads upon the native populations of Asia and Africa.

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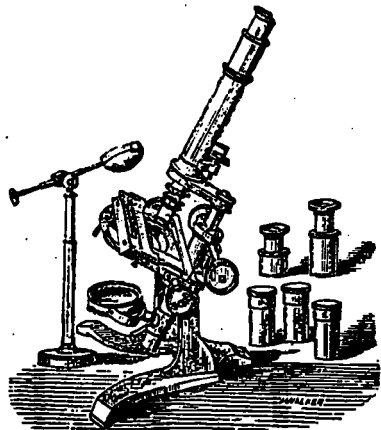
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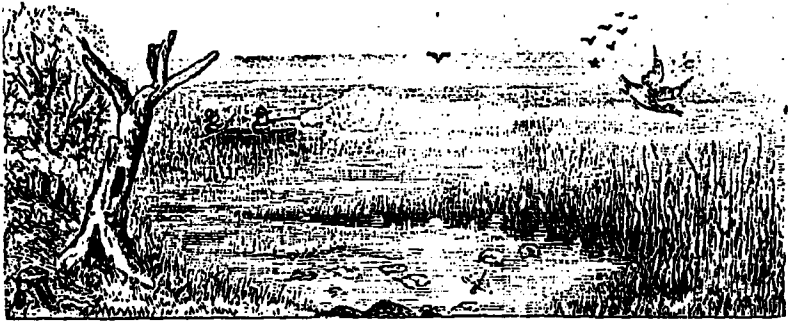
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