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VARIETIES.

[The following beautiful reflections on the study of Nature are from the last number of the Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal. They are introductory to a Review of Audubon's Birds of America.]

All objects of nature are capable of exciting intense interest in the mind of man, the moment he begins to look upon them as fragments of the vast and wondrous machinery of which he himself forms a part. It were difficult to say what collective portion of this magnificent system ought most to attract our attention, for all its parts are so mutually connected, that it is impossible to obtain any conception of one, without extending our view to others.

Different minds are differently organized, or are differently biased, one preferring this another that branch of study; and as no mind is capable of grasping the whole, the arrangement is obviously beneficial both to the individual and to the mass. Setting aside the silly and shortsighted spirit that induces one to extol the department to which he has devoted himself, the man of truly philosophic mind views with pleasure the labours of all who endeavour to catch a glimpse of the order that has prevailed in the collocation and arrangement of the mundane objects, which being the only realities from which the unaided efforts of man can derive knowledge fitted for enabling him to attain the abstractions alone suited to the gratification of his intellectual powers, are to him the only legitimate objects of study. Whether it be the resplendent gem, buried deep in the solid mass of the globe, or the flower glowing in the delicately pencilled hues of its summer splendour, or the animal instinct with life, and impelled to action by passions and emotions excited by the communication of external existences through the medium of his senses, that is to him the magnet of his versatile mind, it matters not. The universe is full of objects, the entire nature of any one of which no man has ever comprehended, and of

which no one is unworthy of the most intense regard of the brightest intellect, seeing it is the manifestation of an infinitely brighter. But of the numerous groups of objects that constitute the furniture of our planet, none is a more general favourite than the class of birds. The school-boy when his irksome task is over, hies him to the greenwood to search for the curiously constructed nest in which the mellow-piped blackbird, or the gaudy finch, or the cheerful wren, has deposited its cluster of painted eggs. The young savage views with delight the airy forms that flutter and flit on the forest boughs, and prepares his pop-gun and tiny arrows. Man immured in cities, seeks to bring around him the freshness of nature; and while he decorates his habitation with the flowers of distant climes, forgets not to hang up a gilded prison for the little warbler of the woods that it may delight his ear with its music, or his eye with the brilliancy of its varied plumage. Man roaming the wilds, decorates his person with the spoils of the aerial wanderers; and vain woman gliding along in the gay saloon, loves the graceful waving of the costly plume, with which she seeks to add to her attractive powers. But enough—every body knows that birds are universal favourites.

In every department of natural history knowledge has made slow progress. For ages, men have been content with a superficial idea of its objects. Unfortunately, as some might say, for its progress, it seems to most people so simple a science, that they imagine they have nothing more to do, in contributing to its advancement, than to see and describe. Hence, Ornithology has too often been in the hands of men ill qualified for the task which they had undertaken. One is fond of birds, as every body is, and fond of shooting them, as many persons are; and he fancies, that an account of the colours of their feathers, however vague, may benefit the world. So he prepares his book, and is forthwith immortalized. Another is fond of draw-

ing, as well as of birds. He is fonder still of his own glory, and he resolves to perpetuate the results of his labours, by having them engraved. Then is the world gratified by the sight of birds, which, in form and attitude resemble nothing in existence, but which are made known by the excellent expedient of engraving their names beside them; and this man also passes into immortality. Another, fond of the fire-side and of reading books, gathers around him the aggregated wisdom of ages; and studying the productions of the forest of the Wabash, or the ranges of the Himalah, as delineated, not in the book of nature, but in the books of men, perhaps little better qualified than himself, and who have described birds from skins and feathers, with a bill stuck at one end, and two withered legs at the other, comes upon the astonished world in all the glory of authorship. Others are fond of marshalling birds into classes, orders, tribes, divisions, subdivisions, groups, genera, subgenera, &c., or of wheeling them into circles, or extending them in lines; or they may make them diverge from types, or set them a marching in pairs, or in fives; and many other fooleries are played off for the benefit of science.

But every now and then does there appear a man, who sees things not as other men see them; and he, communing with Nature in the wilderness, or scrutinizing productions in the silence of his closet, elicits the elements that are one day to accumulate into the stable basis of a system which shall form a temple, dedicated to the genius of the universe.

From the Vermont Chronicle

THE SILK WORM

This useful little animal, the author of so much luxury and magnificence, is one of the most interesting objects in nature. In its disposition, it is perfectly gentle and inoffensive, affording both instruction and reproof, to all who may behold it, and withal richly compensating the owner for all the care bestowed upon it.

The egg which produces the worm is smaller than a common size pin head, of a bright yellow, which in process of time becomes of a brownish cast. After the mulberry leaf has attained to a sufficient size, the eggs are placed in a room where if the temperature ranges between seventy and eighty, they will hatch in three or four days. When they first make their appearance, they are so diminutive in size, as scarcely to be perceptible, of a blackish hue, varying in complexion as they increase in age.

The process of casting off their skins, which is said they do four times, is slow, and to appearance, somewhat painful. The time of this change taking place may be known by their refusing to eat, rearing their heads, and remaining stationary nearly four hours. They then fasten the extremity of their covering to the table and commence their onward march, the skin separating from about the neck, affording them egress without difficulty.

Each time they appear in a new dress, their appetites are sensibly increased, until they attain unto a perfect worm, which will take place at the end of five or six weeks, when they become almost transparent,—of a light cream color, handsomely variegated with dark spots. Nearly the whole length upon the back, may be seen at this period, what is thought by some to be a large blood vessel, expanding and contracting at regular intervals. When the time for winding arrives, they raise their heads and look around for a suitable place to suspend their cocoons, (which however is generally made for them by placing near oak branches or suitable frame,) upon which they commence their task, by fastening on all sides within their reach, a coarse web of silk, to contain the cocoon, which in size and proportion resembles a pigeon's egg, in which they enclose themselves, leaving sufficient space for the free motion of the body in arranging the silk in regular layers of an uniform thickness, which can be seen by cutting the cocoon in pieces. The length of time occupied in its formation is four or five days of unceasing toil; and from the beginning of its labors until the close of life, a period of four or five weeks, it abstains wholly from food of any kind. At the expiration of fifteen or twenty days, the worm has been converted into a chrysalis, and from the latter to a beautiful white miller. In that state it is very active, although unable to mount into the air. It moves about upon its feet in small circles, its wings in rapid motion, and after a few more days of enjoyment in its new state of existence, it deposits its eggs, to the number of four or five hundred and closes its eventful life.

SILK.

We visited yesterday the silk establishment of Mr. Duponcau and Mr. Garah, in Chesnut near second street, and were astonished at the vast number of worms which were feeding and spinning. One circumstance was mentioned to us, that is worthy of notice. Last summer, a number of cocoons were laid away, on the supposition that the worm was killed; but in a short time the animal in its winged state worked its way through them, and as they were near the north window, they took their station in the sill of the window and on the outside; here they laid their eggs. No further notice was taken of them until this spring, when to the astonishment of the people about the building these eggs that had been exposed to all the severity of the winter, hatched, and Mr. Duponcau in order to carry out the experiment caused a number of worms to be put on the mulberry trees, in the yard of Mr. Desauque, in Second street; there they fed upon the leaves, grew rapidly, and yesterday several were spinning on the branches. It is the intention of Mr. D.

to let the eggs take their chance for another year in the open air. The success that has thus far attended Mr. Duponcau's experiments is gratifying to him as it will be beneficial to the country.—U. S. Gazette.

EARL GREY.—In person he is tall and commanding, his head is partly bald, and his countenance, although severe, is dignified and intellectual. Age does not seem to have injured his health, or weakened his constitution; his features are placid, but convey a haughty expression; he is remarkably thin, and his height increases in appearance, the spare habit of his body; his action is not graceful, for he has acquired the practice of hiding one hand beneath his coat skirt, as if standing near the fire, which is very unbecoming, but at times he extends his arms to their full length, and then his attitude is manly and imposing. He fretfully, throughout his speech, advances from his seat towards the table, and retires again; but with him this is an easy movement, unlike the awkward motions of Sir Robert Peel, who paces at regular intervals, and with invariable sameness, between the table and the bench, poisoning one leg upon his toe, and lifting up his hand with the regularity of a pendulum. The tones of Lord Grey's voice are clear but not varied or harmonious, and his utterance is distinct and firm. He is the oldest son of General, afterwards Sir Charles Grey, K. B. who was an aide-de-camp to Prince Ferdinand at the battle of Minden, and held a command during the American war. At the breaking out of the war with France, in 1793, he assisted at the relief of Ostend and Newport, and having been appointed commander-in-chief of the West Indies, succeeded in reducing Martinique, St. Lucie, and Guadeloupe. In 1802, he was created Baron Grey de Howick, and in 1806, Viscount Howick and Earl Grey. He descended from a very ancient family in the North of England. Sir Charles was the younger brother of Sir Henry Grey, bart. who dying without issue, his title and estates descended to the present Earl Grey, who was bred to the bar; but in consequence of the intention of his uncle, Sir Henry, to constitute him his heir, he ceased to devote himself to the practice of his profession; and becoming early in life a member of the house of Commons for the county of Northumberland, he rapidly attained eminence as a speaker in Parliament. He is somewhat older than the Duke of Wellington, being about 60, the Duke being 62 in May last.—National Magazine, and Dublin Literary Gazette.

SIR CHARLES WETHERELL, is a capital fellow, who, with a martyrlike devotion, seems to delight in sticking to a hopeless cause. A character he unquestionably is, and a most original one. To ourselves, who have so often, in the good county of Sussex, enjoyed with Sir Charles the rustic toil of haymaking with those luxurious snatches of relaxation, when cold pork and nut-brown ale act as "Tired Nature's sweet restorers;" to us, his grotesque appearance is perhaps less striking than to many others. But, in our estimate of public men, we are not to be blinded by our private habits, partialities, and associations. Sir Charles is a queer chap, and he knows it as well as we. He is "Great at the bar, greater in the saddle;" great at the head of his table, great at the side of our own; greater it is possible, at the side of that of the Lord Brougham and Vaux—but the greatest of all he is in the Senate. There is Sir Charles overflowing with nature, bursting with enthusiasm, and blowing with animation, shouting with zeal, perspiring with passion, and "Dropping down with oratoric dew;" giving himself, body and soul, to his subject, and despising the graceful in his fervor for what he believes to be the true.—Fraser's Magazine.

THE LUMBER COVES.—Those who know and admire the value and creative power of trade and industry, the main sources of individual and public prosperity, would do well to visit the lumber coves in the vicinity of Quebec. About twenty years ago, there was hardly an inhabited house from the shipyard of Cape Diamond to Sillery, a distance of four miles; there are now probably five or six hundred, from the boarded hut of the day labourer to the substantial stone buildings of mercantile houses, neat counting houses, well furnished stores and tradesmen's shops, comfortable and capacious taverns and boarding houses. The whole beach is covered with timber; booms, wharves and ship yards are provided, and the population is probably upwards of three thousand souls, besides the crews of one hundred vessels sometimes loading at the same time, and numerous raftsmen from the upper countries. Here you may meet with people of all nations and all tongues, generally peaceably, but earnestly pursuing their various occupations; the manly abrupt and honest Englishman; the warmhearted and ready witted Irishman; the active, cheerful and polite Canadian; the silent intelligent and calculating yankee; and the industrious and frugal German. Even the Greek from Constantinople, has found an asylum in the Lumber Coves of Canada. The coves from Cape Diamond to Sillery are however but a portion of the lumber establishments in the vicinity of Quebec, the river St. Charles, the falls of Montmorency, Cape Rouge river, on the north shore; St. Nicholas, the Chaudiere, Etchemin, New Liverpool, New London, New Leith, &c. on the south shore, are all busy scenes of hauling up, dressing and shipping lumber. All have collected

about them, numerous inhabitants, and they are become markets for the spare labour and agricultural produce of the vicinity.

The numerous children to be met with in all these coves, their healthy and comfortable appearance, show that the produce of the industry of those employed there is not wasted. Drunkards are not fit for the hard labour of the coves, and cannot get employment. There are indeed much fewer irregularities and crimes in these places, than is generally imagined. In every one of them of any extent, schools have been established, which are numerously attended. In general, the merchants and others at the head and management of the establishments at the coves, have been active in discouraging disorder and immorality.

HARVESTING OATS.

It is much the best way to mow (not to reap) oats when beginning to turn yellow, whether they are wanted for fodder, or for the oats with the fodder. If a farmer wants to make the most of his oats, if they are ever so stout, let him mow them when beginning to turn yellow. Dry them well, thresh them as much as he pleases, and his cattle will eat the straw in preference to the best meadow hay; and besides the grain must be brighter and heavier than if they stand in the field till quite ripe, and the straw is spoiled.—Detroit Courier.

A WINDFALL.—We understand, that a respectable mechanic, now residing in this city, received a letter from London, by the packet ship Corinthian, on Saturday last, announcing the fact, that he had fallen heir to a title and estate worth £80,000 per annum. The subject of this paragraph is we learn, a very respectable and pious man, of the Methodist persuasion.—N. Y. Gazette.

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