

may well be concluded with a few pertinent extracts from the article in question.

"So long as demand continues, the supply will come. Law of itself can be of little, perhaps of no ultimate, avail. It may give check; but this tide of destruction it is powerless to stay. The demand will be met; the offenders will find it worth while to dare the law. One thing only will stop this cruelty, — the disapprobation of fashion. It is our women who hold this great power. Let our women say the word, and hundreds of thousands of bird-lives every year will be preserved. And, until woman does use her influence, it is vain to hope that this nameless sacrifice will cease until it has worked out its own end, and the birds are gone. . . . It is earnestly hoped that the ladies of this city can be led to see this matter in its true light, and to take some pronounced stand in behalf of the birds, and against the prevailing fashions.

"It is known that even now birds are not worn by some, on grounds of humanity. Yet little is to be expected from individuals challenging the fashion: concert of action is needed. The sentiment of humanity once widely aroused, the birds are safe. Surely those who unthinkingly have been the sustaining cause of a great cruelty will not refuse their influence in abating it, now that they are awakened to the truth. Already word comes from London, that women are taking up the work there. Can we do less? It needs only united action, sustained by resolution and sincerity of purpose, to crush a painful wrong, — truly a barbarism, — and to achieve a humane work so far-reaching in its effects as to outswEEP the span of our own generation, and promise a blessing to those who will come after."

There are already in England, it may be added, two societies organized expressly in aid of the preservation of birds 'in Great Britain and all other parts of the world.' The Selborne society, originated by George Arthur Musgrave of London, appeals to Englishwomen "to forswear the present fashion of wearing foreign or English bird-skins. Our countrywomen are asked to inaugurate a return to a mode which, though half forgotten now, is assuredly more becoming to the wearer than trophies of robins and sandpipers." Lady Mount Temple is not only a member of the plumage section of the Selborne society, but has written a vigorous protest against the fashion of wearing dead birds on dresses, bonnets, and hats. The section is under the patronage of her Royal Highness the Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, and numbers among its membership twenty ladies of title, and also Lord Tennyson, Robert Browning, Sir Frederick Leighton, and Rev. F. O. Morris.

#### THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION COMMITTEE ON BIRD-PROTECTION.

THE American ornithologists' union committee was recently organized in New York city with the following membership: Mr. George B. Sennett, chairman; Mr. Eugene P. Bicknell, secretary; Mr. William Dutcher, treasurer; Mr. J. A. Allen, Dr. J. B. Holder, Dr. George Bird Grinnell, and Mr. L. S. Foster, all of New York city; Mr. William Brewster, Cambridge, Mass.; Mr. Montague Chamberlain, St. John, N.B.; Col. N. S. Goss, Topeka, Kan.

The committee is desirous of collecting facts and statistics bearing upon the subject of the destruction of our birds, and will welcome information from any source. It also extends the promise of its hearty co-operation to all persons or societies who may be interested in the protection of birds.

The headquarters of the committee are at the American museum of natural history, Central Park, New York city, where the officers or any of the members may be addressed.

THE Third report of the Cornell university experiment-station, 1883-84 and 1884-85 (Ithaca, N. Y., *Andrus & Church*, 1885, 39 p., 8°), contains an account of work done in the years 1882-85 chiefly by Professors Roberts and Caldwell. Although the experiments are comparatively simple, and show plainly that they were made in the intervals of other duties, they still show a degree of insight and accuracy in plan and execution, and are reported with a clearness of statement which we sometimes look for in vain in more pretentious reports. We may mention particularly Professor Roberts's determinations of the value of stable-manure, and Professor Caldwell's comparisons of the chemical composition and nutritive effect of certain rations for cattle. The subject of the first-named experiment is one which has usually been treated deductively, and hence these experiments are of interest not only in their direct application to farm practice, but because they serve to a certain extent to justify the deductions of science. The feeding-experiments show the uncertainty attaching to the use of the so-called 'feeding-standards' or 'standard rations' which have been somewhat widely recommended by writers on agricultural science. Evidence seems to be accumulating that these standards, in their present form, are very uncertain guides, and that, even if not based on false premises, they require great modifications before they can be made of much use to those most needing the information.