

adoption for all, the native and the immigrant, the old and the young, and it is not the least pleasant of their reflections that their children and the children of their neighbors will reap the reward of their labors more fully than they can hope to do. In the deserts of Arabia he is looked upon as a public benefactor who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before, and even more so he who makes a well in the desert, for the refreshment of strangers and the use of coming generations. To found a college, to endow a hospital or to create a chair in a university is a commendable act, even though the moving impulse be as much a hope of perpetuating the name of the donor as a desire to benefit mankind. But quietly and unostentatiously to do as these gentlemen have is far better, since the action springs from a purer and more exalted sentiment. It is to be hoped that our feathered immigrants from Germany will become as useful and respected in their sphere as are those citizens who are responsible for their presence among us.

A few words about the society and the birds themselves will be of interest. The idea of bringing these feathered songsters to Oregon originated with Mr. Frank Dekum, president of the Portland Savings Bank, and to his earnest efforts and liberal contribution of money are due the successful carrying out of the idea. A year ago, upon being urged by Mr. Dekum, Mr. C. F. Pfluger undertook the work of securing subscribers to a fund for this purpose. This effort finally crystalized in the organization, on the 2nd of June, 1888, of the Society for the Introduction of German Singing Birds into Oregon, of which Mr. Dekum is president, C. F. Pfluger secretary, and F. Bickel treasurer. A fund of \$1,000.00 was raised, solely by contribution by about one hundred and fifty German, American and English citizens, and a contract was made with a resident of the famous Herz mountains to capture and bring to Portland one thousand birds, embracing from ten to twenty-five pairs each of skylark, black starling, nightingale, gray thrush, linnet, black-headed nightingale, bullfinch, black thrush, ring ouzel, chaffinch, goldfinch, greenfinch and singing quail. The birds were captured last year, and will be brought here in the spring, arriving about the 20th of May. For a short time they will be placed on exhibition at the new exposition building, and will no doubt attract crowds of people, the small admission charged being added to the funds of the society, which now fall short of the expense of making this importation. At the proper time, just as the nesting season begins, the birds will be liberated in Portland, East Portland and Albina, or in the immediate vicinity of those places, according to the habits of the birds. It is expected that they will imme-

diately select places for nesting and begin the work of raising their families, not having time to fly about or seek more distant homes; and from the well known habit of these birds to return each spring to the home of their birth, it is believed that the young ones will find their way back after their southern journey next winter, and Portland will be the center of their colony, from which they will gradually spread until in a few years they will be found throughout the entire region west of the Cascades.

Among the first to appreciate the action of this society were members of the Oregon Alpine Club, who at once took steps to supplement it by bringing from the eastern states several of the most desirable song birds, such as the famous mocking bird of the south, the cardinal grosbeak, or redbird, and the joyous bob-o-link. These birds, also, will arrive early in the spring, and will receive, as will also the others, the fostering attention of the club and the German society until they can propagate in sufficient numbers to be past all danger of extinction. One of the steps to this end was the passage by the legislature in February of an act to protect birds from destruction and their nests from spoliation, including our native birds as well as these strangers.

In the supplement which accompanies this number of THE WEST SHORE is given a group of these imported songsters, both German and American, with their natural colors of plumage, by which our people can so familiarize themselves with the appearance of these strangers as to recognize them upon sight. As a help to this end, the following brief descriptions of the birds will be of interest.

Among the most desirable of these feathered immigrants are the nightingales and thrushes. The famous nightingale of poetry and song, the *nachtigal* of the Germans and the *sylvia luscinia*, L. of the naturalists, stands foremost among the song birds of Europe. Its song is almost wholly uttered in the evening, though it is occasionally heard throughout the day. A week or two after their arrival in the spring is the time when they pour forth their rich notes in the greatest volume, the males singing in rivalry, hoping to win their mates by the splendor of their song. Congugal love is very strong with the nightingale, and one captured after mating soon dies from grief at the loss of his mate. When captured before nesting, they often make delightful singing birds for the house. In color it is a rich brown on the upper part of the body and a grayish white below, the entire length of the bird being about six inches. Another species, the *sylvia atricapilla*, L. or black-headed nightingale, called *schwarzköpfige grasmücke* by the Germans, rivals the more common variety in the sweetness and power of its song. A tuft of dark