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LV. *Some further Remarks on Swallows.* By Mr. GAVIN
INGLIS.

To Mr. Tilloch.

DEAR SIR, HAVING already intruded so much on the patience of your readers with my remarks on the sagacity and habits of the swallow, I feel rather inclined to apologize for troubling you with any thing further regarding these wonderfully wise little creatures. Still, however, I must encroach, to state a few circumstances which may amuse some of your friends, being corroborative of what was formerly stated. I shall, however, endeavour to be as brief as may be consistent with perspicuity.

In my former communications I stated minutely the circumstances attending the departure of the White Martin, or what is known in this part of the country by the name of the White-tailed Swallow, at an unusually early period of last year. These returned this year as formerly, the same morning, and in company with the Chimney Swallow, on the 15th of April, and brought forth two successive incubations. The first was on wing by the end of June, and the second early in September. About the middle of that month the whole Martin tribe disappeared; but the Chimney Swallows remained in considerable numbers till the 3d instant, when they also took their departure.

The hibernal departure of this colony of Chimney Swallows may this year have been protracted in consequence of a few tiles having been blown from the roof of the boiling-house in a gale of wind, by which means some of the bleach-field cats had on a Sunday, when no person was near to protect the swallows, made their way through these openings, and reached two nests when the young brood was in a pretty advanced state. These were immediately devoured by ravenous puss. The tiles were replaced on the Monday morning; on which the old swallows resumed possession of the nests, and in due time produced another hatching of young birds.

From the time lost by the destruction of the former, this hatching was considerably later than the collateral young of the second incubation, and seemed, after their kindred brood from the other nests were on wing, and able to provide for themselves, to become the adopted children of the colony. The feeding, training, and protecting them alike devolved on all, and became one common concern.

After these nestlings were able to roost on the house-top, I have frequently seen, toward evening, dozens of the old swallows al-

ternately feeding these young ones till they were completely gorged, and then returning to rest for the night.

The circumstance of the cat's devouring the intermediate hatching rendered the old swallows doubly suspicious of the meanderings and movements of tabby.

One morning, soon after this catastrophe, I had gone out of doors to examine the state of my ley cisterns, and was attentively observing a curious motion in the alkaline lixivium that had been left at rest over-night. I was soon induced to relinquish my musing, by the noisy shrieks of a group of swallows that were flying round and hovering about me, and directing not their attacks, but their movements, in such a manner as seemed to claim my attention. I had no sooner raised my eyes from looking at the liquor in the cisterns, and turned myself towards them, than they seemed satisfied I had listened to their complaint; they then made a circuit round me, and in a body darted into an open house with great velocity and noise. Finding I did not follow them, they immediately returned and flew round and round me so close as to make me feel the wind from their wings, and again darted into the house, returning instantly with augmented celerity and clamour, repeating the same movements and indications of distress, quickening their motions as the danger had become more apparent. It then struck me that the extreme distress of the swallows must proceed from some cause of alarm within the house, and that by these movements they were using all their art to decoy me into that place, and anxiously importuning my protection against some common foe. On conceiving this, I immediately followed them, and was fully confirmed in my conjecture, on finding a cat perched upon a plank that had been incautiously left, *as if* to enable some of the tribe to reach a nest, and in the very act of placing herself in a position to take the leap. Puss, on seeing that the swallows had procured this timely assistance, betook herself to flight; when the swallows ceased their clamour, perched, and began trimming their feathers while I stood by them, as if nothing offensive or alarming had occurred.

A very striking instance of their discriminating discernment occurred about this time, which showed their courage in attacking their foes, their disposition to resent an injury, their determination to inflict punishment on the aggressor, and that neither time nor change of circumstances could divert them from their purpose of keeping up a continued warfare against the offender, till the day of their final departure for the season. One of the men-servants, standing on a steeping vessel, reached up his hand and took a young swallow from a nest immediately above him, in presence of one of the parent swallows; who, being previously acquainted

quainted with the individual, showed no symptoms of uneasiness at what passed, till he, to try if the young one could fly, threw it a little up from his hand. The young bird spread its wings, but, being insufficiently fledged to support itself, fell to the ground, and was killed in sight of its afflicted dam, who immediately shrieked the war alarm: the same call was instantly repeated, echoed, and re-echoed from without, and crowds of swallows came flocking from all directions into the boiling-house. Upon ascertaining the state of matters, this man was singled out, and the marked displeasure of the whole group declared by their at once commencing open hostilities against him by all their varied modes of annoyance and attack, without deigning to take the least notice of any other individual present.

This continued day after day, at every time and in every place they could meet him, attacking him whenever he appeared out of doors, following him into the house, and darting at him in the midst of his companions, without the dread of being repelled. One instance of this particularly marked their thorough knowledge of the individual, and determination to be revenged: He had gone to a neighbouring farm in company with another man (also belonging to the bleach-field) to examine some flax, and on their way had to pass a plantation at the distance of nearly half a mile from the original scene of action, where a considerable number of swallows were busily catching flies under cover of the trees. The two men had no sooner turned a corner, and come in view of the feathered tribe, than one of them singled out the object of their dire resentment by darting full in his face, and at the same time shrieked the battle call. The group left off fly-catching, and gathered in an instant round the men, never all the while taking the least notice of the guiltless individual, but directing all their vengeance against the transgressor. In the most determined and resolute manner they kept up their annoyance the whole breadth of a large grass field, vexing him to such a pitch that, to relieve himself of these troublesome attendants, on coming to some fallow land, he was obliged to collect clods and gravel and throw amongst them with all his force:—upon this they retreated, and betook themselves to the wood. There they remained under close cover till his return, allowing him to pass nearly half the breadth of the grass field, where there were neither clods, stones, nor gravel to repel them, and commenced their attacks anew, with increased vigour and impetuosity, to the great amusement of his companion, till he reached the bleach-field, where he was glad to take shelter in one of the houses, declaring “*Tho’ thae Swallas sid big about the field thae thousand year, bae my certy I’s nae mair fyle my fingers wi them.—Hech!!! sic a stour as I hae hain wi the bratts! wha wad a dree’d thaer kennin a body sae far afield?*” The

case of Mr. Thomas Diamond, of Brenchley, as stated in the Kent Herald, also strongly marks their faculty of discrimination, recollection, and disposition to retaliate.

Yours truly,

Oct. 9, 1819.

GAVIN INGLIS.

P. S.—This morning the water from the lake shows something like an internal commotion, although darker in the colour than on former occasions. Upwards of 3000 eels were taken last night in their way from the lake to the sea.—12th Oct.

LVI. *An Essay on Dreaming, including Conjectures on the proximate Cause of Sleep.* By ANDREW CARMICHAEL, M.R.I.A.

[Concluded from p. 264.]

MANY inquirers have been perplexed to account for the lively conversations we hold in our sleep, involving rational replies, sarcastic retorts, and alternating arguments. This, however, can be explained without any recurrence to the plurality of organs. Whatever we are capable of thinking without an effort, we are susceptible of dreaming; and during our *waking reflections*, we frequently imagine what kind of reply an adversary might make to an observation we had dropped—we immediately enter into the warmth of argument, by coining an answer of our own in return; and when we have said all that occurs on that side of the question, a reply naturally suggests itself on the other, all the merit of which we ascribe to our antagonist; and thus the disputation goes on, as if *two different minds* were engaged in the contest, the words by a strange illusion tingling in our ears, and the ardent looks and forcible gestures flitting before our eyes, till some real object, breaking on our attention, recalls us to the perception of the external world, and the nature of the reverie, which, till now, we thought real. In sleep there is no such intrusion; but the dream and the reverie do not differ from each other as long as they last.

A dream must, therefore, be the necessary consequence of any portion of the brain being awake, while the senses are asleep; and the question naturally occurs—Are the senses ever awake while the brain is asleep? and if so, what is the consequence? Certainly, not the perception of external things, because the sensorium being involved with the remainder of the brain in sleep, the rays of light would merely fall upon the retina, and the vibrations of the air on the auditory apparatus, without conveying any further the impressions of colour or sound. But if those sensories, and other
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