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Whitely at Quongo, November 18, 1887, and is now in the British Museum.

Immature male. Similar to the adult in its first plumage. The first signs of the male plumage in the present bird are the approach of orange-red feathers on the sides of the face, throat, abdomen, under tail-coverts, and tail.

The young male described is in the McConnell Collection, and was collected in the Takutu Mountains.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

The Life of Alfred Newton. By A. F. R. WOLLASTON.

THERE must be few ornithologists of any standing within the British Empire who have not been waiting with what patience they might possess for a 'Life of Alfred Newton' to appear. And now, at last, after unavoidable delays, it has appeared, and Mr. A. F. R. Wollaston must be heartily congratulated on having drawn for us, out of the mass of facts and correspondence which it was his difficult task to sift and condense, a life-like sketch of the man as he was, and of the great influence which he exerted for the good of ornithology.

In his capacity as a Professor of Zoology in the University of Cambridge, Alfred Newton could never be said to have reached the high-water mark of academic fame; but as an English ornithologist he occupied an authoritative position which was not only somewhat peculiar, but which it is safe to say will never be surpassed for many a long day.

In the comparatively narrow circles of ornithology he made himself famous and ever memorable, first, by his 'Dictionary of Birds' and its masterly Introduction, probably one of the best things which has ever been written by an ornithologist; secondly, by his enormous correspondence and the unsparing, unselfish way in which he imparted his knowledge of birds, bird-lore, and bird-literature to those who sought his aid; thirdly, by his Sunday evening gatherings in his college rooms at Magdalen; and, fourthly, by his whimsicalities.

Newton did not suffer fools gladly, but once his friend you were always his friend. Like all notable men he had his little ways, his little peculiarities, and his little prejudices. It is probable that these only endeared him the more to those who really knew him. With his passing the curtain may be said to have been rung down upon a stage across which passed a school of leisured men who may be said to have revived the study of ornithology in the British Isles, and also by their indefatigable and enthusiastic efforts laid a sure and solid foundation upon which their younger and no less enthusiastic followers of the more modern school are surely building worthily and well. Of the older school, Newton may be said to have been the inspiration and the doyen. Not only did he travel

and collect and write about his discoveries, but he was probably the prime mover in the launching of the British Ornithologists' Union and its well-known quarterly journal 'The Ibis,' which may be said to have been conceived in his rooms at Cambridge. To the devoted band of ornithologists who put their heads together to launch that publication upon the world those must have been happy days. They were the spacious days of ornithological adventures, expeditions, and research in the open field; spacious days of discovery; days of the constant recording of new species as contrasted with subspecies; days of romance, when it was still possible to live buoyed up by the hope that one might discover the Great Auk alive and "in the flesh"; days when maps had still many vast spaces to be charted and foreign countries were veritable eldorados for the happy ornithologist eager to ransack them of their treasures.

Newton may, in a sense, be said to have been born and bred upon one of these happy hunting-grounds in the form of his father's estates at Elvedon, where he first acquired, with his brother Edward, his taste for ornithology. In those early days of the last century the great Bustard, though on the verge of extinction, still survived in the brecks of Norfolk—the last of the resident stock was killed in 1838,—and Montagu's Harrier might be fairly commonly met with in the fens of Cambridgeshire. In such an early environment there need be little wonder that the ornithological factor in Newton's mental complex soon developed. It led him, in spite of physical disabilities, further afield—to Norway, Lapland, Spitzbergen (when an expedition to that boreal region was in the nature of a considerable adventure), Iceland, the West Indies, the Orkneys, and Faroe Islands, and on many yachting excursions along the west coast of Scotland.

By the happy accident of his brother Edward's position at Mauritius he was led to study, through the acquisition of a fine collection of fossil bones, the extinct *Dodos* of the Mascarene Islands, and as a result we have his article on the Dodo in the 'Dictionary of Birds,' an exposition which "may be cited as an illustration of the learning and the exhaustive criticism with which he could discuss a matter which strongly appealed to him," to say nothing of the almost complete skeleton which is one of the cherished possessions of the Cambridge University Museum. It would be beyond the scope of these few remarks to dwell on the fact of how much that Museum owes to Newton's efforts. Indeed, we would rather recommend Mr. Wollaston's book for the admirable way in which he has been able to catch the spirit of the ornithological period through which Newton lived and worked, and to depict for us the very nature of the man as he was, than as a serious attempt to record in an exhaustive way his work as a zoologist.

The book cannot fail to fascinate any reader who has a soul above the mere systematic side of ornithology, and for whom the memory of such men as the Newtons, Tristram, the Godmans, Selater, Wolley, Lilford, Gurney, Salvin, Taylor, Eyton, and a host of others of their time marks a very notable and a very happy period in the history of British ornithology. PERCY R. LOWE.