

behind our own valuable skins), in which case an Okapi might be one of the results. But this is anticipating. There will be over 500 camels ready when we get into the desert country from the heights of Abyssinia, to the latter of which we shall avail ourselves of mule transport from Harrar. This will be our actual starting point, the latter being now made accessible by the railway line from Djibontil up some 250 miles, within a two-days' journey."

### Big Bags of Game.

THE *Kerang New Times*, under date 7/6/04, gives two "record" bags of Quails obtained on the Benjeroop (Murray) stubbles—a party of four shooters in five hours securing 171 brace of birds, and the second party (2 guns) obtaining 98 brace. 'A thoughtful sportsman is satisfied with 10 brace of birds for his day's enjoyment, or, say, an outside limit of 20 brace; but these ardent Kerang shooters have each exceeded by one hundred per cent. the latter number. Surely this is killing "the goose that lays the golden egg." In the near future, in the interest of the birds, as well as the shooters themselves, the law may step in, as it does in America, to "limit" the number of bags.

Since the above was written, the following clipping has been taken from *The Argus*, 18/6/04:—"Three well-known sportsmen of the Western District—Messrs. De Little, Hood, and Affleck—left Murtoa on Friday with a bag of 1,003 Quail, the result of three days' shooting."

In connection with "big bags," attention may be called to the following passages from a lecture delivered last year by Mr. E. North Buxton before the British Society of Arts. They have a definite bearing on the subject:—"While in Vienna the other day I saw, at the taxidermist's, the bag of a sportsman just returned from Somaliland. Amongst other things were 70 heads of Soemmering Gazelle. What can any man want with 70 specimens? But the remarkable thing about them was that nearly the whole were females or immature males. . . . I am here to-night to try and focus and unite the growing public sentiment in favour of the restriction of that class of sportsman whose frenzy and ignorance have been responsible for such terrible destruction." Once the fauna of South Africa was the richest in the world; for many years all the region from the Cape of Good Hope to Orange River has been denuded of game, much of Central Africa as well. Since Lord Milner has been in power some reserves have been proclaimed; but is it not a fact that it is almost an impossibility to get anything like the full number of species of bird or beast back to a place where it has been ruthlessly slaughtered? According to Mr. Buxton, "every British protectorate in Africa has now a series of ordinances for the protection of wild animals and birds." Some of the larger species of game are altogether

protected. A license must be taken out to shoot game; the number of each bag is limited, and a return of the number and sex of each species killed must be furnished. Theoretically, even Africa is in advance of Australia. It would be most interesting to know how many birds in the Victorian "big bags" so gloried in were "females or immature males." Is not such heartlessness a menace to any species? In America, as previously pointed out in *The Emu*, not only the shooter of illicit game (over-large bags included), but what the law terms a "common carrier," and the railway authorities who convey such freight by train, are liable to penalties. From India, as well as South Africa, the export of certain forms of game, as well as their products (plumes, &c.), is forbidden, save by special license, and ruthless shooting is thus discouraged.

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### Corrections.

TURNIX TANKI.—Mr. D. Seth-Smith, F.Z.S., points out that in a reference to an article of his on this bird the range of the species was given not as he intended it to be read (see *Emu*, vol. iii., p. 195). The editors regret that Australia was inadvertently given for the species instead of for the genera.

THE VARIED LORIKEET.—Mr. Reginald Phillipps, in a letter to the editors of *The Emu*, desires them to correct a statement on p. 195 (vol. iii.)—His male bird of this species, he says, "had not the red crown when first received, because it was immature, not because it was a male. . . . It was the owner of the birds who was trying to pass them off as true pairs, the mature specimens as males, the immature as females." It is regrettable that this misreading occurred, and the editors apologize.

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### Notes and Notices.

THE fourth annual session of the Aust. O.U. will be held in Sydney on the 28th, 29th, and 30th November next. From preliminary arrangements already afoot the function promises to be the most successful yet held.

THE following appeared in the Melbourne *Age* under "Sporting Notes":—"Mount Gambier.—The annual Parrot match was well competed for, and was won by Dr. F. D. Jermyn from H. E. F. Sturm with 15 birds, first miss out conditions. H. Hammer won two sweepstakes afterwards." Why do not the many bird protection societies of South Australia protest against this cruel destruction of indigenous birds? If the Gambier Gun Club must have such sport (?) there is plenty of vermin, and to spare—to wit, Starlings—to shoot.