

(editor's note: This paper was transcribed from a handwritten cursive copy with various difficulties. For a perfect rendition, the reader might wish to consult the original, itself a copy, in the volume entitled *Literary Club Papers*, May 30, 1891 to February 6, 1892)

A Promising Young Scholar

The boys of the N. G. Grade had just about completed the Study of Zoology, and have listened to general interesting popular lectures on the natural sciences in general, when Thomas Ladman junior consented to address the most mischievous members of this class, on the subject of his late studies. The professor had left the school room, and then seized upon the occasion to call the boys to order. Mounting the platform, he made an exaggerated bow to his disciples in waggery, and address them as follows:

Feller Vertebrates. All animals, with few exceptions, is more or less alike. We shall therefore subdivide them up into two classes; first them that are more alike, and, second then that our less so. Fish belongs to the former, and birds to the latter. The cat = fish is a peculiar quadruped. It is found, more frequently, in its favorite haunts. Their young are called Kit = fish. Fish and other mollusks of their habitat, have no plumage or feathers. This shows Providence. The cod-fish is higher in the social scale, and they are good dancers for they often go to cod-fish balls. I mean this for a joke and not for Solemn Science.

Fish is very well educated, and are mostly found in schools. They speak Finnish for their mother tongue they don't use any father tongue.

The next topic is craw-fish; but he hasn't no craw like a chicken. He goes ahead behind foremost. Their tail is interesting but I never heard it. Lobsters and Crabs spend their summer season at the sea beach, but in winter they put up wherever they can. Do you catch on to the nice pun I made about "can?" Seneca Snooks, over there, never sees a good joke. Lobsters live in lobster Salad. Crabs eat crabapples. A sea urchin is a small boy washing in the surf. Clam chowder is chowder made of clams.

You see I have crowded a heap of fish information in small space. That is, if you got it all into your head. Scientific Science gives us lots of multum in parvo, which words is Latin and means "many in one." Boys, look here! Nobody can't get along in animals without latin. Caesar says: omnis Gallia ist ex uno and I agree with him. You spell Caesar with a C, but you pronounce it with a K. What he means by his quotation is that all true Vertebrates have plenty of gaul. He had himself. Maybe some of you mud-heads think Caesar hasn't nothing to do with the rarity of our Composition. There's where you are off. Caesar was a true mammal and goes into animals. Zoology is a big thing. Every one of you is only

animals, same as Caterpillars. What do you say to that? Yes sir, zoology is a big thing, and sprawls over the universe. Biology is a branch of the main ferk of zoology and treats of two legged orgasms, from the Greek root li two and ology leg. There's were dead languages comes to life again.

I have been taking a few lessons in French and German to put a fine point and sharp edge on my mind this fall. Professor [] Ridge says whenever you get a new language you get a new Soul and my old Soul is about worn out studying English entomology and inflictions. I like German better than I do French when you print it in English, but French is much plainer than German printed in Dutch for that type wears out a boy's eyes.

But allow me to digress back to our subject. And now in conclusion. Next to fish comes birds and aves. I have a collection of them. The tropical lingitudes is more conducive to ostriches, which lay alligator's eggs. There are also mummies in that region but mostly of an extinct specie. My collection of the feathered tribes is not yet complete, but so far as it goes it is hard to beat. I have already got together one bird and one ave. They are stuffed. I would like to exchange with some other pachyderm who stuffs. Some birds are good to eat, and some ain't. Buzzard fer instance. Pap says some of the Democrats has got to eat coon next week. But I didn't quite understand what he meant. Uncle Bill is a Democrat, and I bet he don't eat no coon. Spring chicken is good, but not till they are hatched. A young goose is called a gosling, and a young moose is called a mooesling, but of course they are not both birds. Any fool could tell them apart. What is the difference, Lineca? Why don't you remember that birds chaw with the gizzard, and the others ruminates!

And now to sum up. We have explained the first two halves of our subject, viz. a, namely, birds and fish. In birds we include two sorts, viz. namely aves and birds proper. Fish is more widespread but the bulk of them may be slung together under two heads, viz. namely real fish and craw-fish. Real fish we may divide into big and little, and craw-fish into live and dad, which takes them all in.

Don't forget, boys to take this all down in your memory random books.

W. H. Venable

A teacher recently was explaining combustion. In order to find out how deep his teachings had penetrated, she asked: "well Johnny is would combustible? Yes'm.

“Our stones combustible? Yes’m.
But Johnny you can’t burn stones.

Ma’am – but I’ve busted lots of ‘em”

[Note, partially in the margin, by] W.C. Cocheran, Editor October 31, 1891