In laying before our readers this first number of a popular scientific monthly, we commence a publication in which we shall endeavor to meet the wants of all lovers of nature.

The rapidly increasing interest in the study of the various departments of Natural History invites the establishment of a journal which shall popularize the best results of scientific study, and thus serve as a medium between the teacher and the student, or, more properly, between the older and the younger student of nature.

If the reader, however slight his intercourse with nature may have been, shall find something in these pages to stimulate his zeal, and direct his mind to the right methods of investigation, and also teach him new facts concerning the haunts and habits of his favorites of the wood, the lake and the seashore, the great aim of this
journal will be accomplished. Should it do no more than to bring naturalists, both young and old, into an active coöperation and sympathy, and promote good fellowship and amity between the great brotherhood of enthusiasts, as all true naturalists are, we shall gain a most important object. The value of our Magazine will depend more on its power to awaken the absorbing interest invariably excited by the contemplation of nature, and of illustrating the wisdom and goodness of the Creator, than on any adornment of style, or cunning devices of the artist.

We trust the Magazine will be equally welcome to the Farmer, Gardener and Artisan. We shall endeavor to point out the practical benefits resulting from the study of nature. The value of the study of the habits of insects, or Economic Entomology, the modes of breeding and development of animals and plants, and their distribution over the surface of the globe will be often discussed.

This is an utilitarian age, and all the theories now floating on the sea of science, all the stray facts not yet grouped in their proper places, besides the well digested facts which fill the treasury of knowledge, are all to be subordinated to the practical advantage as well as to the intellectual and moral elevation of man. As philosophers in seeking the truth for the truth's sake, let us not forget that our science will be ennobled by publishing those facts and principles which interest alike the philosopher and the day-laborer. The farmer and grazier are as much interested as the naturalist in all facts concerning the origin of
life and of specific forms, whether by direct creation, or by secondary laws as claimed by the followers of Lamarck or Darwin. In his work "On the Origin of Species," Darwin gathers many of his most important facts from the experience gained in the farmyard and garden, and all such facts are of practical value to the cattle breeder or horticulturalist. The studies of the astronomer in his observatory; the daily observation of the clouds and dew point; and of the barometer and thermometer, and the tracing of the course of storms interest alike the meteorologist, the farmer and the mariner.

In our monthly calendar of the periodic returns of animals, farmers and gardeners will be warned of the attacks of insects injurious to crops. All inquiries respecting the attacks of such depredators will be answered in our columns, and modes of combating them be suggested.

As a medium between collectors, we trust the Naturalist will be found of great use. Should the sportsman shoot a rare bird, or the insect-hunter capture a rare butterfly or beetle it may be here placed on record; or should the conchologist pick up a new shell which he is unable to identify from the means at his command, it will give us pleasure to aid in determining the name of his rarity; or, if unable ourselves, to place him in communication with specialists who have the requisite knowledge.

Such, then, shall be the leading object of the journal—to amuse the reader, perhaps decoy him within the temple of nature; and, if he be a willing student, instruct him in some of its mysteries.
The matter offered to our reader's acceptance will be mostly drawn from original sources. Occasionally we shall extract from the pages of our contemporaries. The most recent discoveries of general interest will be gleaned from the English, German, and French reviews and journals,—for science is cosmopolitan. Thus, following My Lord Bacon's bidding, we shall "prick in some flowers of that he hath learned abroad" for the better adornment of this our Naturalists' Companion and Solace.

The editorial responsibility seems great, and nothing but the boundless wealth of nature spread out before us, the untiring good will of our scientific friends in contributing to our pages, and the promise of the kindly appreciation of the public, can be an excuse for our appearance, and for any apparent presumption in our bearing.