



Smithsonian Institution

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Department of Birds: Annual and Monthly Reports 1884

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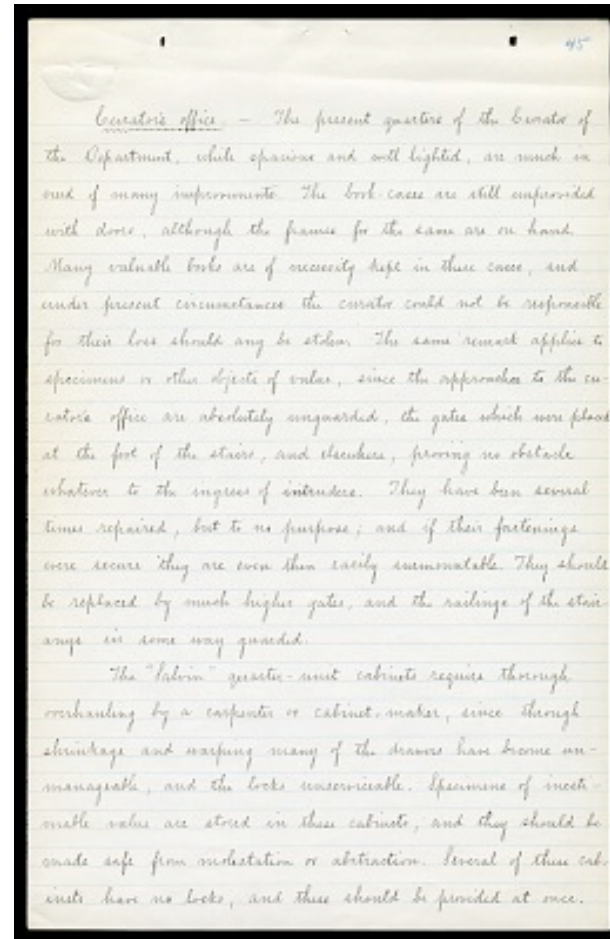
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Curator's office. - The present quarters of the Curator of the Department, while spacious and well lighted, are much in need of many improvements. The book-cases are still unprovided with doors, although the frames for the same are on hand. Many valuable books are of necessity kept in these cases, and under present circumstances the curator could not be responsible for their loss should any be stolen. The same remark applies to specimens or other objects of value, since the approaches to the curator's office are absolutely unguarded, the gates which were placed at the foot of the stairs, and elsewhere, proving no obstacle whatever to the ingress of intruders. They have been several times repaired, but to no purpose; and if their fastenings were secure they are even then easily surmountable. They should be replaced by much higher gates, and the railings of the stairways in some way guarded.

The "Salvin" quarter-unit cabinets require thorough overhauling by a carpenter or cabinet-maker, since through shrinkage and warping many of the drawers have become unmanageable, and the locks unserviceable. Specimens of inestimable value are stored in these cabinets, and they should be made safe from molestation or abstraction. Several of these cabinets have no locks, and these should be provided at once.



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