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## ON ENTOMOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE.

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*Part I—On the Law of Priority.*

Im Ganzen—haltet euch an Worte ! GOETHE.\*

The discussions upon the subject of nomenclature in Zoology, and especially in the department of Entomology, have recently become very perplexing to American students. Many who have been unable either by want of time or lack of opportunity, to consult old works, which are to be found in but few libraries, are called upon suddenly to decide for themselves, whether they will or will not adopt changes in the names of some of the most familiar and best known objects.

To all such I have but two words of advice : *Resist innovation*, unless the innovator presents to you the reasons for his proposed change, with such force as to convince your judgment. Disregard the Mephistophelean counsel, in the motto above cited. Use the *words* only to acquire and convey accurately your knowledge of *things* ; but never believe that the word is superior to the thing which it represents. Thus will you avoid scholasticism, one of the great abysses of thought into which the seeker after truth is liable to fall.

With a view to guide the thoughts of those of my readers who have paid heretofore but little attention to this very troublesome subject, in such manner that they may be able to form independent opinions, I have endeavored in this essay to place briefly before them the canons upon which all action in regard to nomenclature are at the present time supposed to be based. And to these canons I have appended short

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\* *On words* let your attention centre. B. Taylor's Faust, i, 110.