

his death is not known to me ; at least it was some time before 1834 and after 1824, where he is quoted by Th. Say in his *Amer. Entomology* by *Anthicus bicolor*. The father, F. V. Melsheimer, was in correspondence with the well known German entomologist, A. W. Knoch, in Brunswick, who states in the volume before mentioned that up to 1801 he had received from him over 700 American insects. He gives still very valuable descriptions of 23 species.

F. V. Melsheimer published, besides some papers on religious matters, the well known catalogue, "A Catalogue of Insects of Pennsylvania," by Fred. Val. Melsheimer, Minister of the Gospel, Hanover, York County ; printed for the author by W. D. Lepper, 1806, Part I., small 8vo., pp. 60.

The catalogue (I am indebted for a copy to my friend, Ph. R. Uhler, of Baltimore), is now very rare, and contains the names of 1,363 species of beetles, among them 460 named by Knoch. It seems that at this time Melsheimer had not received Knoch's book, published 1801, as his names do not coincide with those described by Knoch. As the dedication copy of Knoch's book to Melsheimer is in the library of the Museum in Cambridge, it came probably to Melsheimer after 1806. This catalogue contains the first list of American beetles, but without descriptions, and has therefore only an historical value. Of the 1,363 species, only 205 are now surely known, and only 134 are quoted in Dr. F. E. Melsheimer's catalogue.

After the death of the eldest son, the second, Ernst Friedrich Melsheimer, inherited the collection and the library. He was a country physician and lived near Dover, 14 miles north of Hanover. Zimmermann visited him the next day, and his diary contains the following statement :—

"The house, rudely put together with boards, painted red, stood all alone in the middle of a forest, and looked more like a hut. His wife was at the spinning wheel. The reception was indeed very cordial, and when he heard that his father's book was well known and mentioned in German, English and French works, which he never had dreamt of, he became animated and talked with great interest on entomological matters and books."

Zimmermann wondered how he was able, in his isolated position, to keep up such a lively interest in natural science, to collect so industriously, and to study his small library, in which the magazines of Illiger and Germar were the most prominent and most valued. Though he