

something may be done for all who care for insects, without filling out pages too much with technicalities, and without losing sight of all additions to our knowledge by becoming simply "popular." To steer a suitable course between the Scylla of abstruse science on the one side, and the Charybdis of mere "popularity" on the other, is no easy task, and we fear has not yet been achieved by us. We hope, however, in the forthcoming volume to do a little better in this respect, and we look forward to a continuance of friendly aid from our correspondents in various quarters to enable us to overcome the difficulty. As a first step towards improvement we propose to present to our readers a series of illustrated papers on the common Butterflies of North America—with special reference to those found in Canada. We hope that we shall thus be enabled in time to furnish beginners in Entomology with a hand book that will enable them easily to identify any common butterfly and to ascertain where and when it may be found, what its larva feeds upon, and such other useful information as may be gathered into a short space. Owing to the difficulty there is in obtaining really satisfactory wood cuts of insects, and the time that is required for their production, we shall not be able to take up the different species of Butterflies in any systematic order, but only as we are able to obtain the necessary materials. We shall be very thankful, indeed, for assistance from our readers in this department; almost every one can help us with lists of species observed in his own neighborhood, or with notes on their time of appearance and disappearance, number of broods, larval habits, etc., etc.

The "Hints to Fruit Growers" that have been afforded by one of our Editorial Staff—Mr. Saunders—will be continued with greater frequency during the coming year; we are glad to learn from various sources that those already published have proved of much value to our horticultural readers.

As a further improvement, we should be pleased to receive correspondence from our readers upon general Entomological subjects of the day; for instance, at the present moment, upon the vexed, and we may surely say vexatious, question of nomenclature.

It will be a relief, no doubt, to the majority of our readers to learn that the reprint of Kirby's *Insects of the Northern Parts of British America* is now fast approaching completion, and will cease ere long to distress them with its constant recurrence. The whole will, when finished, be made up into a separate volume and be sold at a moderate price. We have no doubt that it will prove of much value to those who are unable