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OUR THIRD VOLUME.

To all our friends and correspondents—to all who read these pages, we bid a kindly greeting. Once more we are entering upon a new volume; for the third time we solicit the attention and assistance of all lovers of nature throughout the continent—of all especially who delight in the study of the wonderfully varied forms, structure and habits of Insects. In addition, we now also desire to draw into our friendly circle of readers and observers in the same great field of nature, that numerous class of haters of insects, who hate them with a deadly hate, who give them no quarter in any case, and who devote them all alike to execration and unsparing destruction. Friends, we invite you all to come and join us in our work, which is one of deepest pleasure, even though often filled with toil; come with us and search into the mysteries of the insect world; help us to trace out the wondrous beauties of structure, form and coloring of these marvels of the Creator's power; help us to investigate thoroughly the lives, metamorphoses, habits, occupations, food, and all other matters connected with these tiny creatures; join us in working out their scientific arrangement and nomenclature; aid us in rightly discriminating between friend and foe, between noxious, beneficial and neutral insects, and let us all unite in the endeavour to discover the best means of counteracting the ravages of the one, and of encouraging and protecting the other.

In this work all can do something; not only the laborious student of Entomology and the ardent collector of insects, but multitudes of others as well. Every fruit grower, farmer and gardener, every one who cultivates even a square yard of ground, has constant opportunities of learning new facts respecting these ubiquitous creatures, and can, if he but will, add much to our knowledge of them. Careful observation is the first and most important operation, and next the accurate record of the facts observed. It is astonishing how much can be learnt in a single season by any one who will but open his eyes to what is going on about him, and how much true pleasure can be derived from the contemplation. We beg, then, kindly reader, that if you are not already like ourselves a devotee at this particular shrine of Nature, that you will make use of this joyous spring time that has opened upon us, and become initiated into the mysteries of this alluring science. It is a branch of knowledge the pages whereof are open to all, the secrets of which are ready to be disclosed to every enquirer. It requires no costly apparatus, no long journeys in search of materials; its