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ON SOME OF OUR COMMON INSECTS.

III. CABBAGE BUTTERFLIES.

BY THE EDITOR.

The next species of *Pieris* on our list—the Rape Butterfly (*P. rapæ*, Linn.) though an European insect, is rapidly becoming one of our commonest and most destructive species, especially in the Eastern portion of the Dominion. The history of its arrival near Quebec in some ocean steamship, its discovery by Mr. Couper in 1859, its capture in abundance at Quebec by Mr. Bowles, in 1863, and its subsequent rapid spread in all directions is probably well known to all our readers. It is needless, then, for us to dwell upon it here; we may merely state further that it had reached the city of New York in 1869, Halifax, N. S., in 1871, and last year it had come as far west as Belleville and Trenton, Ont. We fully expect to see it at Port Hope this year!

The Rape Butterfly, like the preceding species, is white, with a black dash at the tip of the forewings, a black spot on the front margin of the

Fig. 8.



hind wings, and in the male (Fig. 8) *one* black spot in the middle of the forewings, but in the female (Fig. 9) *two*. The under surface of the forewings, in both sexes, is marked by *two* spots, corresponding to those on the upper surface in the female; in other respects the wings

are much alike on both sides, except that beneath there is a tint of yellow at base and tip. Occasionally *male* specimens are found of a bright yellow colour, like our common Sulphur-yellow Butterfly (*Colias philodice*); to