

The Canadian Entomologist.

VOL. V.

LONDON, ONT., NOVEMBER, 1873.

No. 11

ON SOME OF OUR COMMON INSECTS.

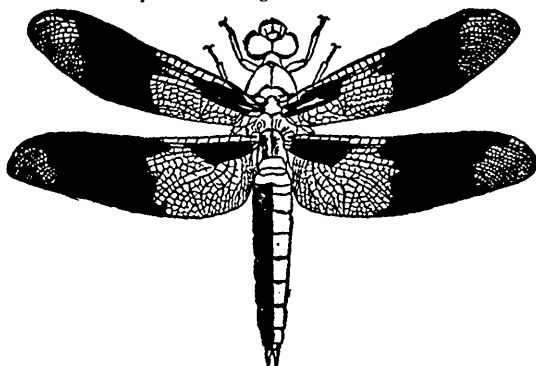
9. THE DRAGON FLY—*Libellula trimaculata*, DeGeer.

BY J. WILLIAMS, LONDON, ONTARIO.

This insect belongs to the order Neuroptera, which term signifies nerve-veined, so called in consideration of the netted structure of the wings. The members of the particular family (*Libellulidæ*) to which our specimen belongs, rival many of the Butterflies in their graceful shapes and brilliant colouring, while they excel them in rapidity of flight. These insects have received various popular names in different countries—the French call them Demoiselles, the Germans Florfliegen or Gauze-flies, or Wasserjungfern or Virgins of the Water, while the English style them Dragon-flies, Horse-stingers or Devil's Darning-needles. The English terms, although less poetical than those of our European friends, are, we believe, in a measure, more appropriate to the private character of these insects, who fully earn the title of Dragon-flies, although they are not Horse-stingers; of the third title we can say nothing.

Our specimen, *Libellula trimaculata* (fig. 19) when full grown, may

Fig. 19.



be described as follows:—The body is much elongated and cylindrical, and attains a length of two inches, in average specimens. The head is