

engaged their serious attention, and that every effort would be made to aid the Commission in its work. This season is being spent by these savans in especially studying the habits and breeding places of the destructive Locusts of the West, and already they have made extended observations, not only in the western territories of the United States, but also in some of the adjoining portions of our Dominion.

The Entomological Club of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held its annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn., commencing on the 30th of August, when many interesting subjects were discussed. An important paper was read by A. R. Grote, Esq., of Buffalo, N. Y., on a new insect, destructive to the red and white pine trees, the sources of our valuable lumber trade. From the details given of the work of this insect we fear it may prove a formidable foe to the future growth of our pine forests. Our Society has usually been represented at these annual gatherings, but on this occasion, owing to other pressing and unavoidable engagements, those of us who have usually attended were prevented from being present.

We cannot better illustrate the recent progress made in Entomological science than by referring to one department, namely, that of the study of our night-flying moths. This has been greatly stimulated by the general practice of sugaring, by which immense numbers of these insects have been attracted, and their capture in good condition made an easy matter. This practice in America was but little followed until 1874, when an English Entomologist, Mr. George Norman, visited Canada, and, after having faithfully carried out the process of sugaring for a season, he published the result of his labours and his mode of operating, in our journal. His success was so unprecedented, and so many rare, or hitherto unknown species captured, that collectors everywhere were induced to imitate his example, and in the short time that has since elapsed an immense number has been added to the list of known species, and our collections have been enriched by this means with an extensive series of hitherto rare specimens.

Our monthly journal, the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, is still well sustained, its pages being regularly filled with interesting and original contributions. Did time permit, I might have occupied your attention at considerable length by referring to the many valuable points brought out in these papers. I cannot, however, refrain from adverting to the contributions of Mr. W. H. Edwards, of West Virginia, on the life history of some of our butterflies, in which it has been shown that not a few of our so-called species are merely dimorphic forms of other species, and attention drawn to the important influence of cold in modifying these forms. By exposing the chrysalids to the influence of this agency by laying them for varying periods on ice, or placing them in an ice house, some of these dimorphic forms have been produced at will, thus throwing much light on the causes of variation in species.

I would also call your attention to the many recent valuable additions to Entomological literature in America, especially to the beautifully illustrated work of Dr. A. S. Parkard, on the Geometrids of North America; to the continuation of Edwards' magnificent work on North American Butterflies; to the learned and elaborate treatise on the Rhynchophora of America north of Mexico, by Drs. LeConte and Horn; to the excellent works of Prof. Townsend Glover, of Washington, on American Diptera, Orthoptera, and Hemiptera; to the valuable reports of the State Entomologist of Missouri, and many other excellent works. But I must not trespass longer on your patience. Thanking you for your kind partiality in honouring me as you have done,

I have the honour to be,

Yours very sincerely,

WM. SAUNDERS.

London, Ontario, September 25th, 1877.

The election of officers then took place, with the following result:—

President.—W. Saunders, London.

Vice-President.—E. Baynes Reed, London.

Secretary-Treasurer.—J. Williams, London.

Council.—Wm. Couper, Montreal; Rev. C. J. S. Bethune, Port Hope; J. Pettit,

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