

which in all probability belonged to the genus "Melanactes" of the Elater family. "Its general colour, (as we described at the time in the *Canadian Entomologist*, vol. 1. page 2) was a dark drab, the posterior angles of each segment, the softer connecting portion between the segments and the under side of the body being very much paler, and of a somewhat dirty yellow hue; on each side there is a deeply impressed line in which the spiracles are situated. When seen in the dark, the insect presented a very beautiful appearance, being apparently ringed and dotted with greenish fire. Each spiracle appeared to be a point of bright greenish light, and the division between each segment a line of the same colour; it looked indeed as if the whole insect were filled with fire, which shone out wherever it was not concealed by the dark shelly integument. When coiled up on its side it looked like a lovely Ammonite whose striae emitted green light, and with a point of green fire in each interspace."

All the insects of the Lampyris family, whether luminous or not, may be classed among our friends, as they do not feed upon our crops or fruits, but upon various worms, snails and insects. One species (*Chauliognathus Pennsylvanicus*) a pretty yellow soft-winged beetle, with a black oval spot towards the tip of each wing cover, is especially useful from its commendable habit of devouring the larvæ of the dreaded Plum Curculio, when in the larval state itself. The perfect insect we have sometimes taken in great numbers upon thistle blossoms, towards the close of summer.

Cantharid Beetle

8. LADY BIRDS (*Coccinellidæ*.)

From Luminous Insects to Lady-birds is a long leap to take in our description of neutral and beneficial insects. The intervening families of beetles, however, are so addicted to the destruction of our property in one form or another, and the exceptions are so few and inconspicuous, that we must pass them all over, and go on to the consideration of the pretty little creatures—as useful too, as they are pretty—that are generally known by the name of "Lady-birds," (vulgarly called *Lady-bugs*). They belong to the family *Coccinellidæ* of Coleoptera.

After the Luminous insects (*Lampyridæ*) which we just now brought before the reader, there come, according to the generally received classification, a large number of most destructive insects. Of these we may mention the *Plinidæ*, the species of which "are found in old houses, in furniture, in rotten palings, stumps of trees, etc., which they and their larvæ perforate with round holes in every direction, which are filled with a very fine powder formed of gnawed wood and excrementa; some species feed upon collections of dried plants, skins of insects, etc; whilst others bore into our chairs, tables, and other woodwork, books, etc.; other species feed upon almost every substance, devouring ginger, rhubarb, cayenne pepper, etc.: and rendering ship-biscuit often unfit for use; others again feed upon woollen clothes, wheat in granaries, and other stores,"—a most noxious family certainly. After them come the *Scolytidæ*, the members of which are very destructive to trees and timber; the *Cantharidæ*, (Fig. 77,) useful for blistering purposes, as 'Spanish flies,' but very injurious to vegetation; the *Curculionidæ*, (Fig. 78,) one or two well-known species of which are enough to condemn the whole family, e. g. the Plum Curculio and the Pea-weevil; the *Cerambycidæ* or Capricorn Beetles, (Fig. 79,) the larvæ of which are wood-borers, and attack trees of every kind; and the *Chrysomelidæ*, beautiful golden insects many of them, but including such noxious creatures as the Three-lined potato beetle, (Fig. 80,) the Turnip-fly or Flea beetle, the Colorado Beetle, the newly imported Asparagus Beetle, etc,



Fig. 78.



Fig. 79.



Fig. 80.



Colours,
Pale Yellow and Black.

(Figs. 81, 82, 83, 84.)

The "Lady-birds" belong to the last family of all of the orders of beetles. They are so common and so well known to every child that it is hardly necessary to give any description of them. The accompanying wood-cuts will suffice to remind the reader of their appearance.

Fig. 8



Who is there, glee, "Lady-birds burned!"? Dieu," "Vach Lady-birds.

The general with red, white in size, an average split pea flight, however drop to the ground which has rather be an admirable test its quality.

As every one their larval and the utmost success very successful numbers of the

More than tion has so frequent no more than the most useful

We have modes serviceable insect friends of tions may have in this report; to say upon the