

## The Young Acadian.

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THE YOUNG ACADIAN.  
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### FARMER'S PLAGUES.

The farmer of this region is met by many discouragements. His potatoes, for the raising of which his land is best adapted, meets with an almost prohibitive duty in his best market. He is obliged to furnish in the vicinity of five pecks to the bushel when selling for a foreign market, and when he endeavors to supply the home market with farm produce he is met by a high railroad tariff; moreover the superior inducements offered by the neighboring Union has so depleted this region of able-bodied young men that the farmer is almost driven to his wits end for help. All these are sufficiently vexatious to make the average farmer feel blue, but with some additional industry, to make up the loss of a share of his legitimate profits, he might still struggle successfully against them. But there is another plague to which he is subject well nigh calculated to drive him to despair, and that is the yearly increasing hordes of insect pests which make continual war with him for his crops.

It would seem as though every species of vegetable possessed the power of evolving its own enemy and so great are the ravages of which they are capable that all information, from whatever source, that will aid the farmers to successfully combat them should be gratefully received. To enumerate and comment on a few of the best known species is all that our space will permit at this time, but all information, whether gained from observation or otherwise, bearing on the subject will be cheerfully published for the public good.

Of the numerous species that infest the Apple too much is known of their destructive faculties, but our knowledge is yet too limited as to the best

means of coping with them. The canker worm from its independent habits is perhaps the most dangerous enemy, and after once getting possession of the tree probably no better means can be found than spraying the tree with Paris green. But a prejudice exists against it in some quarters from a belief that it destroys the tree and that there is danger of poisoning the fruit. This we may say has no foundation in fact, as has been proved by scientific observation, if the solution is made in the proportion of a tablespoon-ful of Paris green to three gallons of water. This is sufficient to destroy the insect while too slight to injure the human stomach even if entering, which is impossible as rains wash it away, as has been proved. It may be as well here to disabuse those minds which hold it, of a belief that the poison enters into the economy of the plant. Nothing is surer than that the plant will not appropriate anything but its natural constituents. The codlin moth which causes the apple to drop is best dealt with by picking the windfall up at once, or having pigs or sheep to do it, as the larvæ soon leaves it after falling. We cannot refer to other species here.

It is with consternation we learn of the approach of the Colorado beetle. So intimately are we connected with the potato, that anything which threatens it must be regarded with great concern. Paris green has been found effectual and harmless in above named proportion, but we have lately noted that the ant is the deadly enemy of the beetle, and the experience of one farmer was that the ants found in a decayed fence post, which he conveyed to his garden were sufficient to destroy all the beetles on a quarter of an acre, although there appeared to be millions. The plan might be tried on small lots. We have found the Paris green too much for the squash bug when other applications have failed. A decoction of tobacco and sulphur steeped together and poured into the heads of cabbage plants, when cool, destroys the green grub. A spoonful of common salt, placed around the root of cabbage, will keep away the white maggot.

But our principal object here is to call attention to the fact that knowledge without action is useless: all those who cultivate land should fight the enemy; for it is a disheartening experience where a careful farmer uses his utmost endeavors to exterminate the pests and, his careless neighbor permits them to run riot and populate the whole territory. It is nothing short of criminal, and should be made the subject of legislation, as is the case with certain weeds, which in comparison are harmless.

The recoil of a blow struck at another's interests has often the vengeful wrath of Heaven in it, and the selfish soul that would destroy a fellow creature for its own pleasure, is itself destroyed.