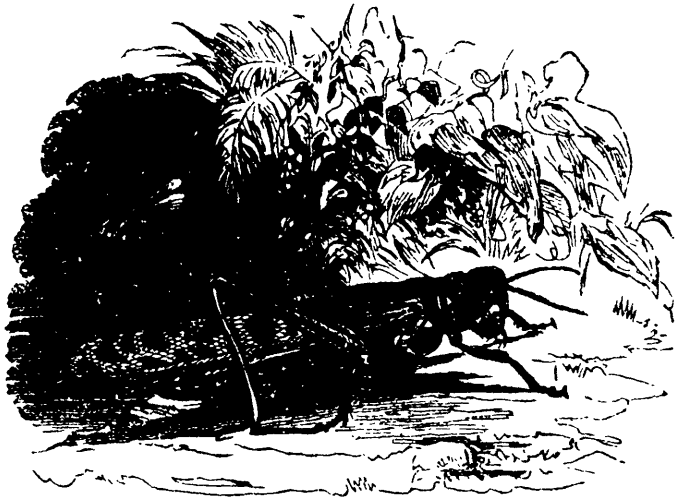


THE MISSIONARY
AND
SABBATH SCHOOL RECORD.

Vol. IX.

AUGUST 2, 1852.

No. 8.



The Locust.

The common great brown locust is about three inches in length; has two antennae (or, as they are sometimes called horns, or feelers,) about an inch long, and two pairs of wings. The head and horns are brown; the mouth and sides of the larger legs bluish; the upper sides of the body, and upper wings brown; the former spotted with black, and the latter with dusky spots. The back is defended by a shield of greenish hue; the under wings are of a light brown hue, tinged with green, and nearly transparent. The general form and appearance of the insect is that of the grasshopper, so well known in this country.

These creatures are frequently mentioned in the Old Testament. They were employed as one of the plagues, and the punishment of the Egyptians;

and their visitation was threatened to the Israelites as a mark of divine displeasure. Their numbers and destructive powers very aptly fit them for this purpose. When they take the field, they always follow a leader, whose motions they invariably observe. They often migrate from their native country, probably in quest of a greater supply of food. On these occasions they appear in such large flocks as to darken the air, forming many compact bodies, or swarms, of several hundred yards square. These flights are very frequent in Barbary, and generally happen at the latter end of March or beginning of April, after the wind has blown from the south for some days. The month following, the young brood also make their appearance, generally following the track of the old ones. In whatever