

W. of the State of Connecticut.—Farmington, in Connecticut, from whence Mr. Wardworth dates his Letter, is about due N. from the Centre of Long Island.

This is certainly not the fly weevil described by Carter, in the 1st volume of the Am. Philosop. Transactions—since the fly weevil was never known to advance from the southward into Pennsylvania; and I am convinced, from the best information, it never did; though it extended gradually from Carolina into Virginia; Maryland, and the Delaware State, the course of its progress was very different from that pursued by the Hessian fly.—Long Island was indisputably the point of departure of the Hessian fly; and indeed, my Lord, it is not very probable, or consistent with the natural order of things, that an insect of this sort should have traversed such an extent of distance as the space between the Delaware State and Long Island, without marking the intermediate country with some of its ravages.—But, my Lord, there is a very essential difference as to the form, colour, and appearance of the one and of the other: The Hessian Fly is a small dark fly, with thin, long, black legs; clear transparent wings, extending far beyond the body or the trunk; with small though perceptible horns or feelers projecting from the snout. Those I have seen appear, in size and shape, like a little fly which attacks cheese in this country, and which is very closely watched by the keepers of dairies here, as very productive of the worm or skippers, which destroy cheese.—And my Lord, it is a little remarkable, that the worm produced from the egg of the Hessian fly, of which I have seen numbers, though rather thinner and longer, bears a strong resemblance to the worm in cheese.—The fly weevil, as described by Carter, is a pale brownish moth, with little trunks or bodies something shorter than their wings.—The horns which evidently appear on the Hessian fly, may be provided by nature as feelers, to enable them to perforate hard grain, as well as grain in a softer state; though, my Lord, I have not yet seen any person who has perceived the egg, worm, or fly in the grain of the wheat, or who has found any nit, mucus, or even dust, in the dry straw, in ricks or barns, to induce a belief that the egg is there deposited after the harvest.—One of the publications, which I now enclose to your Lordship, goes so far as to favour the idea, that the fly even perforates the seed, and deposits its eggs therein.—The publication I allude to, my Lord, is that signed a Landholder, whose ideas have been condemned as tending to mislead others, but by no means confuted either by reason or

experiment. An observation I made myself gave me some cause to apprehend, the idea mentioned in the paper signed A Landholder, was founded in fact: Upon examining a barn, in a county wherein the fly had not been known to injure the harvest (though it has now certainly made its appearance there, within a few weeks) I observed it in the flaws and apertures where the wood was decayed, over which cobwebs were woven, several of these flies entangled in the webs, many of them dead, but some of them alive, and struggling to disentangle themselves; from hence I concluded there was a propensity in the fly to get into the mow, but whether with a purpose of mere shelter and nurture, or with a view to deposit its eggs, I am yet at a loss to decide.—The information, among the facts, &c. now transmitted to your Lordship, No. 1 and 2, compared with each other, carries some strength of suspicion, that the fly may deposit its eggs in the mow; for it is plain, from Cleaver's observation, that the flies died in great numbers about the time the grain in his garden was affected; and all the flies thrown from Potts's Rick were, either dead or torpid. Still, my Lord, the essential test by which the extension of this mischief to distant countries is to be decided, is wanting; as no sort of discovery was there made, by either of the persons above named, that the egg was actually deposited, either in the straw or in the grain, in their mows.—The fly first appeared in the county of Chester, in this State, after a powerful N. E. wind had prevailed for several days; previous to which it had not been observed in that county, or within 17 or 18 miles of the places where it has been discovered: This wind was most likely the means of introducing the fly into that district of country, and its violence and continuance expedited and extended the approach and progress of this insect.

Some with whom I have conversed, my Lord, infer, that the seed is not infected by the fly, because the first growth of the wheat is strong and wholesome, which, they say, would not be the case, if the seed had been injured or impoverished by the insect before it was sown: But, my Lord, this mode of reasoning by no means of itself carries conclusiveness with me; it does not follow, that, because some of the seed grain might be so eaten, as to have deprived it of all vegetative power, and because some of the seed grain might be only partially injured, that the grains partially hurt may not sprout in the field to some degree of strength, and the grains which have escaped totally may not yield