

paratively little injury was done for a number of years, until the area of careless people became so great that the beetle suddenly assumed dangerous proportions. A costly era of repression will follow, and the evil will diminish again, until some people or their neighbors will begin to imagine it not dangerous after all. Thus it appears we are condemned to fight against an evil until it nearly disappears, leaving only enough to germinate, then relaxing our efforts an instant too soon, it all comes back again to arouse us to fight for life.

When the Potato Beetle entered Nova Scotia some eight years or so ago, the Larch Saw-Fly started towards us from its New England home. The Larch Saw-Fly has just touched Halifax, and now we hear of the start of the Gypsy Moth from the same centre. We trust that the experience of the past will enable our southern neighbors to stop this migration at the start. And to stop it means to kill every Gypsy Moth or caterpillar in the sixty and odd square miles now inhabited by them. To kill millions and millions but yet leave two or three, is to have to do the work over again. A single moth escaping to any other part of the continent without being detected is sufficient to undo the \$50,000 effort now being made in the interests of the continent in Massachusetts. In a future number we shall endeavour to give a cut with a description of this moth, so that in case any should migrate in our direction we may commence their extermination before they may begin ours. Are we doomed in every thing to toil like Sisyphus in his Tartarean abode—

With heavy sighs and a heavy soul
Up the long high hill to slowly roll
A huge round rock to the very top
Where it rests for a moment then to piles off,
And down again with a thundering sound
Smokes in its flight along the ground.

A STARTLING INVASION.

The European Gypsy Moth, *Operia dispar*, appeared last year in a part of Massachusetts, affecting an area of three miles by one. This year the area has extended to fifteen miles by four, or sixty square miles. As soon as it was recognized, an appropriation of \$25,000 was made to exterminate it. The vote this summer has been increased to \$50,000, and a cordon of men is drawn around the district, who examine even the carriages and merchandise moving out of the district for fear some cocoons might be secreted in them, and transported beyond the lines. The trees in the district are being sprayed with batteries of pumps discharging water poisoned with Paris green. But there are a good many hiding places in sixty square miles. How much easier it would have been to have

killed the first one. If the United States forces are worsted in this engagement, the continent will suffer more from it than from the Colorado Beetle and Larch Saw Fly combined. Its larva feeds on the leaves of the apple, cherry, elm, linden, maple, poplars, birch, oak, willow, spruce, and corn; and the insect is very prolific. Let the people see what the Saw Fly from Massachusetts (described in this issue), has been able to do to our fine larches, and imagine the same process applied to all the trees in the list just given. Every soul in Canada has a deep interest in this fight, whether he can realize with vividness the gravity of the interest involved or not.

Plant Study.

A CURIOUS INSECTIVOROUS PLANT.

In the July number of the REVIEW, a description was given of a few of our insectivorous plants—the Sundews and Pitcher-plant. A few weeks ago we received through the kindness of Rev. Mr. McIntyre, Faison, North Carolina, a fine specimen of the most remarkable insectivorous plant in the world—the Venus' Fly-trap.

(Drosera muscipula)

It belongs to the Sundew Family, and resembles our common Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) in having a rosette of leaves close to the ground, from the centre of which a flower-scape, about a foot in height rises, bearing from eight to ten pretty white flowers. This fly-trap has no sticky solution, like the *Drosera*, with which to tempt the

flies, but instead the upper part of the leaf is divided into two lobes, on each side of the mid-rib. On the inner or upper surface of each of these lobes are three sensitive hairs or filaments. If any of these hairs is touched by an insect, the two lobes fly together instantly and the strong bristles on the edge of the leaf interlock in the most curious fashion, imprisoning any but the strongest flies, that may have disturbed the sensitive filament. The imprisoned insect is soon enveloped in a sticky secretion, which exudes from the inner surface of the leaf, and

