

vitality, but the acari laughed at his pains, and after a lapse of twelve or eighteen months invariably presented their unhandsome forms for his inspection. What could be said? It seemed obvious that electricity exercised some peculiar influence in the development of these uncouth little creatures. But in what way, and to what extent? There were persons who did not scruple to conclude that the insects were really originated by voltaic power, and that this marvellous agent could under certain circumstances inspire dead matter with the principle of life, and mould it into living, breathing forms. Philosophers and men of science were puzzled by the intelligence, which flew over Europe like wild-fire. But the bigots—the men of starched souls—they whose judgments were strangled by a thousand prejudices, and who looked at all science through the smoked glass of their own conceit, were furious at the father of electrical acari.

Mr. Cross was arraigned as if it were wicked to send a voltaic current through a silicious fluid. He dealt with unhallowed apparatus and was always trying profane experiments. He must be an atheist. He was an atheist. He pretended to create insects. Such a man ought to be suppressed. Who knew but if he professed to make mites he might also attempt to produce butterflies, sparrows, cats, spaniels—animals of all descriptions—by the same unlawful means?

Nay, should we not hear some day of hopes being entertained that little boys would ultimately appear at the positive, and little girls at the negative poles of his diabolical batteries? One worthy individual took the trouble to write to the impious philosopher, denouncing him as a "disturber of the peace of families" and a "reviler of our holy religion."

"I have met with so much virulence and abuse, so much calumny and misrepresentation in consequence of these experiments," remarked Mr. Cross, "that it seems in this nineteenth century as if it were a crime to have made them." And painful as it is to think that, in such an enlightened age as ours, it should be necessary for a scientific explorer to parry the strokes of such vulgar spirits, it is nevertheless true that this excellent man had to de-