We have often thought and have given expression to the opinion, that these ichneumonized larvæ might be imported into this country, in order to afford us a supply of defenders against the midge. The difficulties in the way are no doubt great, as the objects are so very minute and their capture at the proper time so uncertain; yet we feel sure that it could be accomplished if sufficient energy and skill were devoted to the task. So much were we impressed with the idea in 1868, that we corresponded on the subject with our esteemed friend, Mr. Frances Walker, F. L. S., of the British Museum (Entomological Department), London,—one of the principal English authorities on the order *Diptera*, to which the midge belongs. In reply, he remarked; "I doubt much whether the parasites of the wheat-midge can be introduced successfully into Canada. I can hardly attend to the matter this year, and I know only three Entomologists who are acquainted with the tribes of insects to which the parasites belong, and I have written to them on the matter. In many cases I think that insects are more kept in check by other means than by their parasites. *Platygaster tipulæ* is the chief parasite of the wheat-midge; the British species of *Platygaster* are very numerous; there are probably several species in Canada; and, perhaps, one of them may become a parasite of the wheat-midge. Besides the wheat-midge, there may be in Canada some species of *Cecidomyia* feeding on grapes, and each attacked by a species of *Platygaster*; the latter when it assumes the fly state, might be placed close to the wheat-midge, and perhaps in time it will take to it as its prey." In regard to the latter suggestion we remarked at the time that although we have many species of *Cecidomyia* in this country, and most of them have their parasites, yet we did not think it likely that the parasite of one midge would take to another, except where it was entirely shut out from its own proper species, and that where both are exposed to its attacks, it would prefer the species natural to it rather than the other. The following year the ravages of the midge became so immensely diminished that we did not think it worth while to pursue the subject further. We are still, however, of opinion that, should our country be again visited by the pest, something might be done by the importation of parasites to lessen its devastations, and that at any rate the experiment is worth trying.

The only other natural remedy for this pernicious insect that we are aware of, is the beautiful yellow-bird, or goldfinch (*Chrysomitris tristis*, Linn.), that is so common throughout this Province. We have long regarded this sprightly creature as a special friend of the farmer, from its habit of devouring the seeds of thistles and other annoying weeds; but we learn from Dr. Fitch (*Sixth Report*, p. 79,) that it deserves additional commendation from its being also a destroyer of the wheat-midge. His account of its proceedings is well worth quoting:—"This bird causes that rough and ragged appearance of the wheat-heads which is the most conspicuous indication we have that the grain is infested by this insect. The bird alighting, grasps the wheat-stalk just below the ear, clinging fearlessly to it even when it is swayed to and fro by the wind, and with its bill it parts the chaff from the kernel, picking off and devouring the larvæ to which it thus gains access. When the larvæ are yet small, before the end of June, it begins to feed upon them, and if the wheat is badly infested, in a short time afterwards a large flock of these birds, both male and female, become collected upon it, and return to it day after day. The bird never attempts to obtain all the larvæ from the wheat-heads; it only opens those florets in which the larvæ are the most numerous, namely, the outer florets of the headlets, seldom, if ever, disturbing the inner florets. It parts the bearded chaff from the kernel of these outer florets, and devours the larvæ which are thus exposed, leaving the kernel in its place, sometimes with one or two larvæ remaining hid between the kernel and the inner chaff. Its operations seem to be of a most purely benevolent character, doing for man the best service in its power. Its aim appears to be to thin out and diminish these larvæ from the wheat-heads to such an extent, that part of the kernels—those which it leaves wholly untouched—will be able to fill and become good wheat. To obtain all the larvæ, it would be obliged to part the chaff from all the kernels, whereby no wheat whatever would be produced. Thus we are indebted to this bird that the grain which we do gather is not dwarfed and shrunken to a much greater degree than it is. And were the natural parasites of the midge introduced into this country, it is very evident that the additional aid which this bird would give to their work would subdue this insect here much more effectually and completely than it is subdued in Europe."

Artificial Remedies.—Though we are so deficient in natural remedies for the devastation of the wheat-midge, there is no doubt that much can be and has been done by the farmers