

of the case. "*The principle of preserving the oldest of the names given to the same insect is not absolute; the choice between them, following the greater or less degree of convenience, remains free.*"

Until quite lately, although there was a general feeling among Lepidopterists that the hunt for new names was getting to be a nuisance that demanded abatement, there seems to have been no active opposition to it, till the publication of the Catalogues of Staudinger and Kirby, and, in this country, of Scudder's Revision. The changes announced in these works amount to a revolution of much of the existing Nomenclature. In the Revision the names of American species have been changed largely, and of genera almost altogether. For example: of the Butterflies found in New England, out of 28 hitherto recognized genera (omitting the *Hesperiidae*) Mr. Scudder has left but three untouched; of five others he has retained the name, but restricted the genus; but of nineteen he has changed the names altogether, displacing well-known names by others purporting to have been found in ancient authors, and mostly in Hubner. And from the twenty-eight genera have now proceeded fifty-one. Whilst of the *Hesperiidae* he has made forty-five genera for one hundred and thirty-eight species, besides giving a horrid array of barbaric family and tribal names, remnants of systems ages ago deservedly exploded.

Mr. Kirby's "Revision has the effect of abolishing scores of old and familiar names (generic) and replacing them by others altogether new to the majority of Lepidopterists" *Wallace*; and Mr. Crotch, by following out his mode of determining typical species, "shows us that Mr. Kirby is wrong in the names of twenty-seven genera," defined before Hubner, and in a letter he says: "I stopped abruptly at 1816, as the question of Hubner's *Verzeichniss* beat me," to which bewilderment we should be grateful, for the assimilative powers of that author are fearful.

The trouble caused by the strict application of Rule 1 to specific names becomes intensified when applied to generic names. It might be supposed in the hunt for the former, that if the several authors now at variance could be got to interpret the ancient descriptions by the same illumination, and could agree upon a starting point, the ultimate name of each species would some day be reached. It might require a long period, but it would seem possible. Not so with genera. Even when the final stage of disintegration was reached, and each species stood in a genus by itself, there would be a never-ending contest as to whether such genus should bear