

16, 1861, and of March 1, July 1, and July 16 of the current year, contains full reports of its appearance and of its operations.

Mr. Conger, however, is of a different opinion, and furnishes us with a very minute description of the insect, and with his melancholy forebodings as to its destructive qualities.

Unable to take for granted that his description is correct, and unwilling that erroneous notions should be circulated without contradiction, I hazard a remark or two in contravention of his assertions and his theories.

Mr. Conger calls the insect in question a "new and formidable looking d-predator." If he refers to the "Canadian Agriculturist" of August 16, 1861, he will find that it is by no means new. The author of an article in that number, an article written a twelvemonth ago, says that "it is not probable that it now (1861) makes its appearance for the first time;" and another writer on the same subject in 1846, remarks, "to say that wheat is subject to the presence of aphides, or plant-lice, is only to state in the case of wheat what may be affirmed of almost every known produce of our soils." Neither can I admit the correctness of the other double epithet; for to such as are acquainted with it, it was no very "formidable" aspect; and the writer of the article in the "Agriculturist," who quoted, observes, with respect to its prevalence, that "there is not much cause for concern;" and refers analogically to another species of the same family, the *Aphis fabæ* which attacks in countless myriads, the bean crops in England, observing, somewhat quaintly, that, notwithstanding, the English "farmers do not dread their bean-crops very light."

But Mr. Conger proceeds with his entomological disquisition. After describing the form and color of his louse, as "viewed through a glass," he says, "although we discovered neither eggs nor deposit of any kind, we found the insects of various ages and sizes; the young ones were without wings, or the appearance of any; the more far advanced being but partly fledged; while those of full growth were fully fledged." Here is a "Natural History Society" established in Montreal. Should the eye of any member of that Society, be fortunate enough to view Mr. Conger's description, that gentleman will doubtless, at the next meeting of the Society, be nominated for the honor of Fellowship. I venture, with great humility, to suggest, that the *Aphis* is viviparous as well as gregarious, and that, therefore, if I am correct, need scarcely excite much surprise that, although young *Aphides* were found, the broken shells which the observer ought, he thinks, have discovered by the help of his "glass," were imperceptible. Again, as to the "unfledged," "partially fledged," and "fully fledged" I, once more, almost tremblingly, hint while some of those interesting insects are

evidently possessed of wings, some also, the greater number, are what is called *apterous*, or wingless, and never succeed in raising those appendages. The winged females never, I believe, lay eggs, but produce their young alive.

Many other matters of interest there are connected with the family of *Aphides*, of which, by the bye, there are at least 70 species; but the limits usually assigned to a newspaper letter forbid any greater enlargement upon the subject.

I therefore, in conclusion, direct attention to Mr. Conger's lugubrious, and, I trust ill-founded, peroration; his peroration is a bane to which Professor Buckland's letter provides the antidote.

But, for the remedy? None is known, you say. Recollect, and I write the words with a feeling of profoundest reverence, that "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." He who inflicts the disease furnishes the means of cure. He whose "great army" is "the locust, the canker-worm, and the caterpillar, and the palmer worm," can, when he sees fit, withdraw those forces, or cause them to be overcome. This *Aphis*, so much dreaded, has enemies more fatal to its existence, than are its own attacks upon the crops. The *Ant* will carry the living *Aphis*, insect after insect, to its subterranean cavern, and keep them there, stilled as it were, to feed upon their honey like excretions. The *Ichneumon* plunges her ovipositor into the body of the *Aphis*, and therein deposits her eggs, many *Aphides* being thus converted into hatching-places by a single fly. The little beetle, popularly known as the *Lady-bird* is an insatiable devourer of *Aphides*; as also are other insects, in addition to numerous birds. So that these Plant-lice being peculiarly inactive, seldom, as I believe, or believed till I read Mr. Conger's graphic account of their air-borne propensities, their fleeing to "parts unknown," which "parts unknown" are, I apprehend, the stomachs of their above named foes—making use of their wings, and as they are pursued incessantly and perseveringly by enemies so voracious that one single fly called *musca aphidivora* requires at least thirty *Aphides* to enable him to feel a comfortable, after-dinner lassitude, I think I may take the liberty of endorsing Professor Buckland's opinion, and of offering it to the attention of the Peterboro' Farmers, in opposition to that of Mr. Conger,

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

B. A.

Peterboro' August 16, 1862.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE REVIEW.—Dear Sir, —I observe that your correspondent B. A., has taxed his time and ingenuity in criticising my letter on the appearance of the Plant-Louse, published in your paper of the 15th inst. In the exercise of that right B. A., has in my opin-