

The White Aster, *Diplopappus umbellatus* (Torrey & Gray), is abundant in waste places in the Province of Quebec. The young shoots of the plant spring from the ground in May. While they are yet green and tender, a small but very beautiful moth, *Gelechia galladiplopappi* (Fyles) lays its eggs—here and there, one on a stem—upon them. The minute caterpillar, hatched from the egg of the moth, bites its way into the shoot upon which the egg was laid; and the effect of its proceeding upon the plant is such that a hollow gall—commencing just above the wound and extending for about an inch below it—is gradually formed, and becomes both the habitation and the store-house of the intruding larva. This creature as it grows bites a tunnel near the top of the gall—a tunnel of about one-eighth of an inch in diameter—leaving only the outer rind of the plant intact.

When, to use an entomological expression, the larva is "full fed," it spins across the middle of the gall a silken web, on which, as on a mattress, it reposes, and undergoes the pupal change. In due time the imago bursts from the pupal case, and ascends the wall of its chamber, attracted by the light admitted through the tunnel formed by the larva. The skin that closes the tunnel is easily ruptured from within, by pressure. It gives way before the moth, which escapes to the outer air and flies away in search of a mate.

In this brief history there is much to admire, but the picture has a darker side. There are antinomies in natural laws—as the Bible student may infer from such apparently conflicting passages as "His tender mercies are over all His works" (Ps. cxlv. 9), and "The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now" (Rom. viii. 22). We soon learn by observation that there is no earthly life without danger, no living thing without a foe. Naturalists become familiar with the working of Nature's antinomies. They are not startled by them. The pious student can find in them abundant tokens of the power, and wisdom, and goodness of God.

The *Gelechia* larvæ are sometimes assailed in their strongholds by chance enemies, as, for instance, by the ichneumon *Pimpla pterelas* (Say); but there are two creatures that are their especial foes. One of them is a Braconid, viz, *Bracon furtivus* (Fyles). This is a small four-winged fly, belonging to the family Ichneumonidæ. The female of the species has a stout ovipositor, with which she pierces the rind that closes the tunnel I have mentioned, and either wounds the larva while at its work, or drops five or six eggs within the gall. The tiny spindle-shaped maggots which proceed from these eggs attack the larva and devour it. They find it sufficient to bring them to their full growth. They then spin their