no stragglers, but towards maturity the larvæ scatter, the main body of the family keeping together till nearly grown. The 'nettles,' as we designate a certain spot, is a patch of that plant covering more than three quarters of an acre, lying on each side of a lane. I have seen perhaps forty families of these larvæ feeding there at one time, but never under the shade of trees which cover much of that ground. The larvae were always out in the sun. I have found the larvae will starve rather than eat the broad-leafed nettle."

Again, 17th July: "I visited the nettles yesterday. Found but one group of larvae, they about ¾ inch long. A bright-colored bug (Hemipter) with a long beak was active in picking off the larvae. I found four in a bent and closed leaf with one larva of *G. Comma;* six in a similar leaf; two in a leaf that was closed but not bent, two unprotected on the under side of a leaf, and one in plain sight on upper side. Found also a bunch of eggs just hatched, and the larvae had crawled to under side of the leaf and lay like a flock of sheep, heads up."

Again, 20th: "Found one group of about 200 larvae, all on upper sides of two opposite leaves, and a few inches below a web at top of the plant. These larvae measured ⅞ inch" (at or about 3rd moult).

"Another group, measuring ¾ inch" (after 4th moult) "were hidden in closed leaves on different stalks. Part of these closed leaves had the ribs cut, and these were crowded; the closed but uncut leaves had from one to four tenants. I have often noticed and know that after the last moult, the larvae scatter and feed openly. Can see a family several rods away where they are numerous."

I separated several of my larvae at one stage or other of their growth and gave leaves of our common broad-leafed nettle. At first they refused the food, then nibbled a little, and finally eat some leaves. But none of these larvae reached pupation, nor even passed a moult. They dwindled away and died. The same thing happened with larvae sent me in 1884. Mr. Gilbert reports a similar experience, as before said.

Specimens of the butterfly from the western plains and to Pacific have not the bright coloration seen at the east. They have a faded look.

ELAPHIDION VILLOSUM, Fabr.

BY FREDERICK CLARKSON, NEW YORK CITY.

There is in the study of Entomology a fascination and delight that captivates the imagination, and renders the enthusiast liable to construct