

small drift-wood. The accumulation was literally swarming with insects which had evidently fallen, or been blown, into the river, and had sought safety upon the drift-wood floating with them. Having floated into a haven of refuge, they were crawling upon the most elevated places and drying themselves in the sun preparatory to flight. In many instances, however, they were doomed to disappointment, as sudden changes in the current and eddy would every now and then violently agitate the accumulation, wash off many of the insects, and send portions of the drift-wood again into the current to be carried further down. Beetles were most numerous, but there were also large numbers of Diptera and some Hymenoptera and Hemiptera. The Coleoptera were principally comprised of Chrysomelidæ, Coccinellidæ, Histeridæ, Nitidulidæ, Lampyridæ and Staphylinidæ, and were generally the smaller and commoner species.

Ottawa, 18th Feb'y, 1884.

W. HAGUE HARRINGTON.

---

1

---

## THE DUNG PELLET MAKERS.

BY FREDERICK CLARKSON, NEW YORK CITY.

The term *Scarabæus*, as applied by the ancients to the Sacred Beetle of Egypt, and afterwards by Linnaeus as comprehending the great division of the *Lamellicornes* of Latreille, is derived from *Khepra*, an African word, which means cipher or circle, and has reference to the orbicular shape of the pellet of dung that contains the deposit of ova. *Khepr* is no doubt the root word, and is analagous with the Greek word *Kapobos*, the Latin word *Scarabæus*, and the English word *Crab*. Any ordinary scholar can follow the slight linguistic change that produces one from the other. The *Scarabæus* is imaged amongst the hieroglyphics of the Egyptians, and was regarded by those ancient people as a symbol of the world and the sun. It is not improbable that the term *Scarabæus* is associated in the minds of the many with the idea of a *Crab*, not only because the Sacred Beetle of Egypt is represented under that form, as a sign in the zodiac, but also from the peculiar conformation of the clypeus and thorax of the beetle to the shell-case of that *Crustacean*. *Scarabæus* evidently means a ball. It seems to the writer that we apply this term to cover a larger class of beetles than the signification of the word will admit.