cation, and therefore know very little about them. One thing, however, we do know, and that is that spiders are often very useful about a garden, as they destroy numbers of noxious insects, though, not being particular to a shade, they sometimes eat the useful ones too.

4. "The chrysalis under a currant-bush" is that of some butterfly; we cannot tell the particular species till it hatches out.

5 "The active, but indescribable something enclosed in a quill, and captured on the back of the hand," was so active that he had got out of the quill. We found an insect, however, in the wool in which the specimens were packed, that is probably the individual referred to. It is a small black four-winged fly, with a very peculiar abdomen that looks somewhat like a shining patent leather satchel, being very thin and flattened, and united to the back of the thorax by a short, stiff and slender stem. This insect probably belongs to the genus *Evania*, of the order Hymenoptera, the members of which are noted for feeding upon and destroying the bean-like egg capsules of cockroaches.

6. "The beautifully marked young snake taken from some clay"—not exactly an insect, by the way—is a specimen of the Ringed Snake (*Coluber punctatus*), a small, harmless species that lives chiefly on slugs, worms, and insects, and is often found under the bark of decaying logs.

7. "The common-looking beetle which, late in the evening, made a great noise, and a great effort to enter the house through a mosquito net," being attracted, no doubt, by a light, is a specimen of the common cockchafer or May-beetle (*Lachnosterna fusca*, Knoch). Its larva is the notorious White Grub which is excessively destructive to the roots of all kinds of vegetables. and has a particular weakness for strawberry plants. It should be "squelched" without mercy.

A correspondent from Mimico sends us two caterpillars taken from cultivated raspberry canes, which he wishes us to tell him about. The yellow one, thickly covered with tufts of bristly hairs, with a pale purplish stripe along the sides, is the larva of *Saturnia, io*, a lovely moth richly ornamented; one of its most distinguishing features being a large eye-spot on each of its hind wings. The caterpillar, when fully grown, is about 2¼ inches long; the specimen sent by our correspondent is about one-third grown. One peculiarity about this larva is, that when handled incautiously it stings by means of its bristly hairs, causing an irritation very similar in its extent and duration to the common stinging nettle. It is not a dainty feeder, but will eat almost anything; we have most commonly found it on willow, poplar, and cherry.

The other caterpillar, prettily colored and ornamented with tufts and pencils of hair, produces a very plain-looking brown moth, *Orgia Leucostigma*, the female of which is not furnished with wings at all, but is an ugly sprawling creature, something like an overgrown spider. This larva is most commonly found on apple trees.

The Raspberry Cane Girdler.

(*To the Editor.*)

SIR,—Herewith I send a small bug resembling somewhat the Squash Bug. I should be much obliged to you for some description of it in your columns. I found my small patch of raspberries of the ever-bearing kind injured in the tops of the young wood, where I expected my fall fruit. At first I supposed it was caused by carelessness in weeding, &c., but as it continued, I examined more closely, and found that, about four or five inches from the top, the shoots were circled with small punctures, so that a slight pressure with the finger would break it off. There are usually two of these circles found round it. I enclose the upper end of one cane, the top of which accidentally broke off at the upper circle, but the lower circle is left, and I hope you will be able to see it. I know not if this is an old evil. I never saw it before, yet I think the bug I send is the worker of the mischief, but cannot be certain, as it is the only one I could find, and he was nicely packed away under a leaf, the stem of which he had cut away, but which had not yet wilted.

FRED. GEO. NASH.

Chippawa, July 26, 1869.

NOTE BY ED.—Our correspondent's specimens reached us quite safely, being most ingeniously packed in a wooden block that would defy the hardest stamping of the most energetic postmaster. In 1866 we observed our raspberry bushes affected in the manner described above, and caught the culprit insect in the very act of girdling the shoots We carefully watched and took notes of the whole process at the time, though we have never before prepared an account of it for publication.

Our notice was first attracted by the appearance of many of the young shoots, the tops of which were drooping and withered, and looked almost as if touched by frost. A closer inspection showed that at the base of the affected part two rows of punctures, half an inch apart, had been made completely round the canes, and that the supply of sap had thus been cut off from the tops, causing them to speedily wither away and break off. A little further investigation revealed the author of the mischief—a pretty long-horned beetle belonging to the borer tribe (*Cerambycidæ*). The insect began by cutting with its jaws a series of small punctures side by side round the cane, six or seven inches from the top. As soon as the first row was completed, it turned round, and facing the other way, cut a second row at the distance of about half an inch from the first, measuring in all cases the exact length of its own body. These two girdles being completed, it deliberately set to work to make a small hole a little way above the lower girdle, and finally deposited a small yellow egg in it. The whole operation was sometimes the work of an hour, or even more. From this egg there hatches out, after some days, a small yellow footless grub, which proceeds to burrow downwards, eating the pith of the cane, and in the end causing its death.

The beetle that does this mischievous work is called the Three-spotted Oberea (*O. tripunctata*, Fab.). It is about half an inch long, and a tenth of an inch wide—very slender in proportion to its length; its colour is entirely deep black, with the exception of the thorax above, and the front part of the breast beneath, which are rusty yellow; on the thorax there are three small elevated black dots arranged in a triangle, the antennæ are nearly, if not quite, as long as the body. The beetles are usually found in July and the beginning of August; they attack all the varieties of raspberry, the black as well as the red and white, and come into gardens from the fields and clearings where we have often taken specimens and observed their work. The injury they inflict is especially annoying from their ruining the canes which are expected to produce the next crop of fruit. To lessen their ravages we should recommend cutting off all infected wigs a few inches below the girdles and burning them, thus destroying the larvæ: and also catching and killing as many of the parent beetles as possible.

The bug sent by our correspondent is not, as he will see from the foregoing description, the author of the injury to the canes, though it is a vegetable feeder, and consequently injurious. Like all other true bugs, it sucks the juices of the object upon which it feeds by means of a jointed beak or sucker proceeding from the under side of the head, and which, when not in use, is neatly stowed away in a groove beneath the body and between the legs. Like most of its order, it exhales a very disagreeable odour, which it often imparts to fruit, especially raspberries, as most of our readers have no doubt observed.

Apple Tree Caterpillar.

To the Editor.

SIR,—I send you a specimen of a caterpillar, which I think is quite rare in this vicinity. I found a dozen or more marching down a limb of a Montreal Beauty Crab, and clearing the foliage during their progress. There are several kinds of caterpillars which similarly destroy the leaves of apple trees at this season—August. These seem more ugly than their brethren. They are not likely to become a serious evil, as they are easily found and destroyed.

I send you what I suppose to be the larva of a Lady Bug. It closely resembles the cut recently given in your journal.

E. R. M.

Halloway, Aug. 16, 1858.