

of the *Sphingidæ*, and which some of our readers may possibly have noticed in the striking resemblance to a human skull on the thorax of the English death's head moth, *Acherontia atropos*. The wings are long and very narrow, but possessing great strength and evidently adapted for great swiftness. Their general color is dark purplish-brown, with a stripe of white on the front edge extending from the white sides of the head, and with a fawn-colored stripe on the outer edge of the front wing. The hind wings have two whitish wavy stripes with a similar fawn-colored stripe on their outer edge. There are also three or four black oblique streaks on the fore-wings, and generally a black dot on the white stripe.

The engravings of this insect are the work of Mr. C. J. Beale, of Toronto, Ont. That of the pupa and larva are adapted, with some alterations, from the excellent designs of Professor Townsend Glover, of Washington. But the beautiful figure of the moth was engraved by Mr. Beale from a specimen in my own collection, and is an admirable *fac simile* of the original insect.

QUEBEC CURRANT WORMS.

BY G. J. BOWLES.

In May last I became the tenant of a house in a central part of the city of Quebec. To this house is attached a garden, which contains a few plum trees, and a considerable number of currant and gooseberry bushes. The plants, however, are very old, and as the garden has been neglected, noxious insects have increased and multiplied to no small degree. I intend in this paper to give my experiences as regards the currant and gooseberry bushes, leaving the rest till another time, and trust that I shall be able to add something to the history of the insects, unfortunately too common, which infest these small fruits.

No sooner had the currants and gooseberries expanded their leaves, than I observed, here and there upon them, a few green caterpillars about half an inch or more in length, which seemed to be in a healthy and flourishing condition. I did not molest them, feeling rather pleased at the idea of having something of the kind to study so near home; and as I intended looking after them when they had grown larger, I did not examine them very closely. In a few days, however, these green caterpillars had disappeared, but the bushes swarmed with another larva, which, to my surprise, I soon found to be those of the notorious currant saw-fly (*Nematus ventricosus*.) Whether or not the green ones I first noticed were larvæ of this species in their last stage, I cannot now say; but if they were, it certainly is a corroboration of Mr. Saunders' conjecture, that some individuals hibernate in that state. The currant unfolds its leaves very quickly, and these green caterpillars (which were not geometers), made their appearance almost as soon as the bushes were covered with foliage. Their disappearance so soon afterwards is also a fact which would favor the idea of their being the larvæ of this sawfly.