

I had observed on one of the bushes, before applying the hellebore, some friends at work on these worms. They were immature specimens of a true bug belonging to the order *Hemiptera*, and probably the young of *Strietus fimbriatus*. These creatures are nearly round, about the size of a common lady-bird having the head, thorax and legs black, and the abdomen red with an elongated black spot in the centre, divided across by a whitish line. Approaching a caterpillar, they thrust their proboscis into it and quietly suck its juices until it becomes so weak and exhausted that it shrivels up and dies. With a view of testing the probable amount of good these friends were thus capable of accomplishing, I shut up two of them in a small box, with a dozen nearly full-grown caterpillars, and at the end of three days found that they had consumed them all; also six in another box with one bug, and in this instance the rate of consumption was about the same, two caterpillars a day for each of these little creatures. The second time I fed them they did not get through their work quite so quickly; possibly they may have overfed themselves at first.

While turning up the branches of some of my gooseberry bushes, I observed a number of whitish eggs on some of the leaves, arranged lengthwise in regular rows at short distance apart, on the principal veins or ribs of the leaf. Usually they were placed singly in the rows, but here and there double. These were the eggs of the currant worm, they were about one-twentieth of an inch long, four times as long as broad, rounded at each end, with a whitish glossy surface. On the branch I was examining there were three leaves with these eggs on; two of them had their principal veins pretty well covered, while the third had but a few on it, as if this had been the work of a single insect who had exhausted her stock before the third leaf was covered. I counted these, and found there were 101 in all. Having just then caught one of the parent flies, a female who was hovering about as if looking for a place on which to deposit her eggs, I squeezed some eggs out of her body and comparing them with those on the leaf, found they were only about half the size, showing that the first must have grown considerably after being laid and that they were probably nearly ready to hatch. In about three hours afterwards, I observed that several of the young larvæ had come out of the eggs, and placing the leaf under a microscope had the good fortune to see some of them escape. The egg consisted of a thin, elastic membrane sufficiently transparent to give a dim view of the enclosed larva. The black spot which is placed on each side of the head in this species, enabled me to determine the position the creature occupied. It was somewhat coiled up and resting on its side with its jaws against the side of the egg not far from its extremity. I could not perceive that it had any other means of rupturing the egg than by its mandibles, which were working visibly within. In a short time the egg was ruptured and the head of the larva protruded from the orifice. Withdrawing its two front feet from the egg, it seized the leaf on which it was placed, and by raising up its back and working itself from side to side, it soon worked itself out. The time occupied in thus extracting itself