

## ENTOMOLOGICAL GLEANINGS.

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With a fruit farm in the country frequently visited, and a fruit garden in town, my opportunities for observing the times and doings of insect foes and friends are sufficiently ample to satisfy the desires of the most active and enthusiastic "bug-hunter" that ever carried a net. Now a swarm of caterpillars disfigures the form and mars the beauty of a handsome tree, by consuming a considerable part of its foliage; again a host of aphides, by their constant sucking of the juices of the leaves, will cause them to shrivel, curl up, and often change color, and the enormous rate at which these creatures increase adds much to the difficulty of their extermination; or some unwelcome "little Turk" sits down uninvited to feed on our finest fruits, and, not satisfied with appeasing its own appetite, leaves its progeny behind to complete the work of destruction; or it may be some rascally borer insidiously undermines one's fondest hopes by girdling and thus destroying trees or shrubs whose growth has cost years of toil and watching. With the desire of helping fellow fruit-growers and others to a better acquaintance with these expensive insect guests, I purpose in this, and probably some subsequent papers, to record observations made from time to time as the season advances.

On the 6th of May the first foe was met. A lot of dwarf pear trees arrested attention from the backwardness of some as compared with others; the unequal way in which the leaves were expanding, and the dark color, almost black, of some of the buds and younger leaves. No caterpillars were to be seen, but on jarring the trees down came the enemy to the ground in considerable numbers, partly falling, partly flying. It proved to be a small bug, belonging to the true bug family, *Hemiptera*, and a species named *Phytocoris (Capsus) linearis*. I never remember having seen this creature doing damage before, so a careful examination of its work was made. Our foe "linearis" is not a "big bug;" it does not measure more than one-fifth of an inch. It is rather variable in color, from dull dark brown to greenish brown, or sometimes dirty yellowish brown. The males are usually darker than the females. The head is yellowish and has three narrow reddish stripes. The beak or sucker is about one-third the length of the body, and when not in use is folded under the breast. The thorax has a yellow margin and several yellowish lines running lengthwise. Behind the thorax is a yellow V-like mark, sometimes more or less imperfect, but usually sufficiently clear to help one to a ready recognition of the species. The wings are a dusky brown, and the legs of a dull, dirty yellow.

This enemy ensconces himself within the young leaves of the just open-