

II.

CANADIAN LANES.

Doubtless, in olden times, when men were few and land grants under the feudal system extensive, hedging and ditching were ready means for enclosing and draining the land, and they have been enduring means.

In Canada the roads that remind one of English lanes, though in truth they are very different, are such as lead through parts of the country in which the old-fashioned snake-fences still enclose the farms and in which brush has been allowed to grow freely in the angles of the fences. In such localities, old roads abandoned for new ones, concession roads leading to a few homesteads off the main lines of travel, roads through sugar-woods and the uncleared forest—these, in their quietude and freedom from dust, are suggestive of English lanes—though they lack much of their beauty.

I will speak briefly of a few such roads:

THE CALEDONIA ROAD.—Skirting a tract well known to the naturalists of Ottawa, by the name of "The Beaver Meadow," is a lane connecting the Aylmer Road with the Chelsea Road. It was originally a "Corduoy road," and it still ends in the remains of a swamp, in which *Typha latifolia* grows freely. Improvements in the neighbourhood have altered its appearance: the logs are gone, and the bed-rock is seen in much of its length; and this, in summer, is carpeted with Stone-crop (*Sedum acre* L.).

Alas! the Beaver Meadow has now been cleared, drained and laid out into building lots. The city naturalists will have to go farther afield for their investigations, and the Caledonia Road will soon become a city street. When I lived in Hull, however, I spent many tranquil hours within its quiet limits.

Muddy spots in the road were much frequented by butterflies. In bright days in April hibernated specimens of *Aglais milberti* Godart might be seen there. The spring larvæ of this species may be found feeding upon the young shoots of the Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica* L.). I raised two batches of them in 1911. They went into chrysalis in the first week of June. Sixty per cent. of them were parasitised by *Protopanteles atalanta* Packard. The grubs of this fly issued from the larvæ of the butterfly—not through the spiny upper parts, but—through the tender ventral portions.