

efforts fruitless and ineffectual, flew away, but returned shortly afterwards bearing in their bills objects of a green color, most probably worms of poisonous qualities, fed them to the young and left, never to return. A few minutes afterwards the latter were dead.

It is evident from the above that the parents, finding their efforts of no avail to relieve their young from their imprisoned condition, sought this way of saving them from a life in preference to which death would assuredly prove desirable. Other instances might be cited, but I forbear. Enough has been written to sustain the writer's position, that in the case of *Formica flava* an unwillingness to suffer any of the colony to undergo a life of slavery was the controlling motive in the sacrifice alluded to.

If it could be shown in the above cases that any material good was subserved thereby, or that any advantage was acquired, the author would be free to admit that Mr. Darwin's theory to account for the destruction was the only one competent to explain all the known facts. But from the foregoing statements it is evident that a desire to save their offspring and *proteges*, on the part of parents and guardians, from the condition of involuntary servitude, no doubt is equally as important.

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## ON SOME OF OUR COMMON INSECTS.

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### 14. THE COMMON COCK-CHAFER—*Lachnosterna quercina*, Knoch.

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Our readers will recognize at once in figure 8, (*Lachnosterna quercina*) the common May-bug in its different stages. 1 shows the chrysalis; 2 the larva, and 3 and 4 the perfect insect. It appears in some years in vast numbers, and is greatly complained of, whilst in other seasons it is comparatively rare. This depends chiefly on the long duration of its developement. The insect flies with a humming noise, so that one is aware of its approach at the distance of some yards. It appears principally in May and the beginning of June, and feeds upon