

Although thousands of these summer-evening tormentors are yearly, yea, nightly, trodden to death during their brief season, yet thousands of others rise to supply their places, and sometimes they are reinforced by armies of tens of thousands. Then it is that oftentimes serious damage is done to trees whose foliage they consume, their powerful and horny jaws being admirably adapted for cutting and grinding the leaves. Cherry trees are frequently injured in this way; indeed, these beetles are not at all particular as to what they eat—the oak, the Lombardy poplar, and many other kinds of trees, are just as readily attacked, if in their way.

The *Canada Farmer* for July, 1866, contains an excellent article on this subject, by our esteemed friend, Rev. C. J. S. Bethune, Port Hope, with details of the habits and history of this insect, which we cannot do better than re-produce:—

"A friend in Cobourg has recently mentioned to us, that his strawberries have been very much injured by a large white grub which attacks the roots, and thus destroys at once the vitality of the plants. From his description of the marauder, we have no doubt that it is the larva of the common May-beetle or Cockchafer—*Lachnosterna Quercina*, Knoch—which is so abundant just now. In the western part of Cobourg, and, indeed, almost all over the neighbourhood, these beetles may be seen on any fine evening, in perfect myriads flying about the trees, the leaves of which they devour in this stage of their existence.

"This insect has been long and most unfavourably known as very destructive to vegetation, both in its larval and winged state. In the former, it is commonly called the 'white grub:' it is then a soft, white worm, with a brownish head, and six legs, becoming, when fully grown, about as large as one's little finger. It is usually found partially coiled up, near the root of the plant on which it is feeding. Unlike many of our destructive insects, the devastations of each individual are not confined to a single year, but it continues several years in the grub state, and, finally, changes early in the spring into a dark chestnut brown beetle, nearly an inch long, with rather long legs, and its breast covered with yellowish hairs. It flies about at night with a loud buzzing noise, and in a most clumsy manner, as if it had very little control over its movements, to the great discomfort and perturbation of nervous persons, especially when attracted into houses, as it often is, by the light. Its period of flight is usually limited to the months of May and June, though it is sometimes met with a little later in the season. The grubs are very commonly dug up, early in the spring, in gardens, in various stages of maturity; the plough, too, brings many more to the light of day. It is hardly necessary, we suppose, to tell our readers that in such cases they should be destroyed at once, and without mercy, by treading under foot. The perfect insects may be collected and put an end to, by shaking them from the trees they infest, into a cloth spread beneath for their reception, and then throwing them into boiling water; the specimens thus cooked will be readily eaten by pigs, which, in fact, root up and devour multitudes of the grubs without waiting for any previous culinary operations. The best time to shake them from the trees is early in the morning, when they become sluggish and stationary, their flight being confined to the hours of darkness."

The larva of this May-bug does not by any means confine its attention to strawberry roots, but devours potatoes, corn and other vegetables, also the roots of grass, and this to such an extent that at times meadows are utterly ruined by them, so that the turf may be turned up like a carpet, so utterly are the roots consumed.

After the pairing of the sexes, the males soon die, while the females burrow into the ground some six inches or more, where they deposit their eggs from fifty to a hundred in number, after which they come out again from the earth, but their mission having now been accomplished, they soon die. The eggs soon hatch into white grubs, which begin at once to feed on the roots of any plants within their reach. During the summer, they burrow about and feed not far from the surface; but as winter approaches, they dive deeper into the soil, below the reach of frost, where they remain torpid until spring. At the close of the third summer, they cease feeding, and bury themselves sometimes two feet deep in the earth, and there, in an oval cavity, formed by the motions of the larva from side to side, the change to chrysalis takes place, the beetle digging its way through and appearing at the surface in due season. Sometimes the transformation to

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