

## NOTES.

## WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION OF COLIAS PHILODICE.

In August, 1886, while visiting in Louisiana, Mo., I made frequent excursions to damp places along a neighboring brook in search of butterflies. It was the droughty season, and there were but a few stagnant pools, damp gravel beds, and moist clay slopes at which insects could slake their thirst. At one of the last named places I noticed a great bunch of Coliads (mostly *Colias philodice* with an occasional *Eurytheme*), and a few specimens of *Pieris rapæ*, which my advance started and put to flight. As a few individuals did not take to wing, but seemed unable to rise though they fluttered violently, my curiosity was aroused and a closer investigation showed the bank and gravel bed below to be strewn with mutilated specimens of *Philodice*, scores of individuals, detached wings in some cases, in others the head and thorax remained intact. Upon taking the struggling butterflies by the wings I found they were held firmly to the ground, their abdomens being drawn into the burrows of Tiger-beetle larvæ. They were being actually eaten alive by these voracious grubs. I found that the robbers after eating the softer parts of the butterflies cast the wings and harder parts away from their holes. Upon my retiring a few yards the thirsty butterflies returned and settled down to sip the moisture again. Those that alighted over the burrows were quickly seized by their cunning enemies, and the poor creatures could only flutter, unnoticed in their death struggles by their unsuspecting companions. I found the clay slope to contain great numbers of these holes or burrows, and the top of each hole displayed a dark head with a pair of ugly jaws, murderous assassins in hiding, thirsting for innocent blood!

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ERRATA.—C. E., Vol. XXIII., p. 34, line 8 from bottom, and p. 36, line 4, for "Lec." read "Sec."; p. 34, last line, for *Prioma* read *Prionia*; p. 35, line 6, for "Lilia" read "Tilia"; p. 35, last line, for "Basidomycetons" read "Basidomycetous"; p. 36, line 15, for "Lilia" read "Tilia."

R. THAXTER.

\* \* \* The Editor craves the indulgence of his correspondents, as he has met with a severe domestic affliction in the loss of his daughter, AGNES EMILY BETHUNE, who died on the 2nd of March in the twenty-second year of her age.

Mailed April 7th.