

concede that the insect was introduced some time prior to the revolution ; yet that its introduction *about* that time must be accepted, because Hagen's arguments to the contrary were not supported by [sufficient] evidence."

"Prof. Riley further remarked that he had referred to these conflicting views of leading writers as to the original source and time of introduction of the insect into America, not so much to foreshadow the future conflict of opinion on similar points in England, as to bring out this important fact as a warning to hasty generalisers, viz., that the arguments of Wagner, Hagen, etc., against its introduction into America, were inherently weak from the biologic side. They are based on the average or normal period of summer development of about seven weeks from egg to adult, and *ignore the important bearing of exceptional retardation in development whereby the puparia of one summer remain latent and only give forth the flies in the spring or early summer of the ensuing year.* This fact, recognized by Harris (1852), Prof. Riley said he had evidence of in America in garnered straw, and it was proved by Wagner himself to have occurred in Germany in field stubble. It was more apt to occur, however, in straw kept dry and packed than in stubble or exposed straw, and is in keeping with many other similar cases of retarded development in insects, some remarkable instances of which he called attention to before the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1881. It destroyed Hagen's main argument, rendered the introduction of the species possible at almost any season, and made its introduction to America by the Hessians, who left Portsmouth, April 7th, and landed June 3rd, 1777, on Staten Island, quite probable and plausible from biologic grounds."

For the purpose of the present communication, it is not necessary to go into the other arguments which Hagen has brought forward to relieve the Hessians of whatever onus attaches to their accidental introduction of this insect: the more important are, (1) that there was no Hessian Fly in Germany at the time, and (2) that the Hessian troops did not carry straw from regions in which it did occur. At this late day it would be folly to attach too much importance to these negative deductions, where there are so many possibilities of their both being erroneous in fact. The evidence as to the introduction and spread of the insect in this country is of a so much more clear and positive nature that it off-sets such negative deductions. With the exception of Mr. Phillips's positive statements, there is only one other recorded statement that would seem to indicate that the Hessian Fly was known in the United States prior to the landing of Hessian troops. This is a statement quoted by Fitch, of Judge Hicock, of Lansingburg, N. Y., who says (Memoirs of Bd., of Agr., 11, p. 169) that a farmer named Jas. Brookins had informed him (Hicock), that upon his first hearing of the alarm upon Long Island, in the year 1786, he (Brookins) detected the same insect in the wheat growing on his farm in Lansingburg. Fitch remarks in parenthesis, "doubtless 1776