

ters should be equally deprecated and avoided. The Grain Aphis in some localities has unquestionably been productive of a greater extent of mischief than at an earlier period we had anticipated. Winter wheat as a general rule escaped, but late spring sorts have in some places suffered considerably. The chief injury inflicted consists in the lessening of the weight of the grain. The constant draining of the sap that flows into the ear, causes it to be very light, and in extreme cases, withered and almost worthless. No artificial means of a certain practical character for driving off or destroying this pest have yet been discovered, but nature in this, as in similar cases, has provided external enemies of these extensive tribes of depredators. The lady bugs, *coccinella*, as larvæ and beetles, the golden-eyed flies, *crisopa*, as larvæ, have been the past season in great numbers in wheat fields, busily engaged in devouring the plant lice. Whether they will happen next year is quite uncertain, and the causes of their recent increase are equally involved in obscurity. The army worm appeared in vast and destructive numbers last year, but we have heard little or nothing of it this season. Let us hope it will be the same with this grain aphis next year.

Plant Louse, (Aphis) or Grain Destroyer.

To the Editor of the *Peterborough Review*.

DEAR SIR—Having heard much of this new and formidable-looking "depredator," I paid a visit on Monday last, to the farm of J. Harvey, Esq., one of our oldest and ablest agriculturalists, where, after a careful examination of his crops, we drove to the farm of Mr. Alex. Rosborough, where, in company with Mr. R., we examined his beautiful and extensive fields of grain. Here, as at Mr. Harvey's, we found his Oats and Spring Wheat literally covered with this unwelcome visitor, giving to the heads of the Wheat in some of the fields a most extraordinary checkered appearance of red and green.

The insect, which in size is something less than the midge, presents, when viewed through a glass, a round oblong body of a pale redish color, without covering and quite transparent; feelers and legs black, and the wings, which were found upon a few of them only, were long, of a greyish color, edged with black. We observed also that the bodies of some of them were of a dark greenish color; the number of these, however, was not very great; and although we discovered neither eggs nor deposit of any kind, we found the insects of various ages

and sizes; the young ones were without wing or the appearance of any; those further advanced being partially fledged; while those full grown were fully fledged, and were not loth in showing us the use of them, by leaving parts unknown. Their position upon the grain also attracted our attention, collected as they were in groups, sometimes to the extent of a dozen, heads downward, around the small stem which connects the chaff or husk of the grain with the stalk, and as busily engaged in obtaining their food as were ever a litter of pigs.

Mr. Harvey informed me that the number upon his wheat had diminished within the last four or five days by more than one-half, and that upon entering the field at the period near which they would rise up in clouds and leave, proving pretty conclusively their intention of leaving as soon as fledged.

On our way homewards we looked into several fields of Wheat and Oats, and found that all more or less affected; and I regret to state upon authority which I believe to be thoroughly reliable, that the attack is very general in that part of the Province.

What amount of damage this heretofore unknown foe may do, is at this moment impossible to determine. That it will be serious have little doubt. With the Wheat the process of filing appeared to be going on as usual though I discovered in many places slight colouration of the husk or chaff. Oats, however, ever appeared to be suffering most; and in the field of Mr. Rosborough's, I believe there fully one-third destroyed now.

Trusting that our fear may not be realized,
I am your Obedient Servant,

W. S. CONGER.

Peterboro', Aug., 1862.

To the Editor of the *Peterborough Review*.

SIR.—There were published in the last issue of the "Review" two communications respecting the appearance, this year, of an insect with whose antecedents but few Agriculturalists in Canada seem to be familiar, and whose advent has, in consequence, produced a more or less considerable amount of alarm. The letters are from the pens of Professor Buckland and Mr. W. S. Conger respectively.

Professor Buckland's has been reproduced more than one occasion since its original publication, and is, in my opinion, so satisfactory emanating from such a source, that, although subsequently to its perusal I personally inspected fields of both wheat and oats infested by the insect in question, I scarcely thought any further notice of it, unless some new light be thrown upon the subject, would prove so fully interesting to your readers, to encourage to admit it within your columns; more especially as the "*Canadian Agriculturist*" of A.