

God had given its fruit for the birds, and as they were willing to take the fruit in its simple God-given state, without adding fire-water, we suspected our right to cut it down. But tall ladders, long poles, and much climbing, were all in vain. It was next to impossible to keep that orchard clean. In spite of all vigilance, the caterpillars bred in the cherry-top, made it look like a scarecrow, and came down in swarms upon the apple trees. It was more labor to keep a dozen trees in its vicinity clean, than all the rest of the orchard. We spared the cherry tree, nevertheless, and the caterpillars and birds, under a less vigilant owner, divide its leaves and fruit to this day.

The batch of caterpillars which comes out in April or May, according to the latitude and season, seems to prefer the apple leaf to the cherry, and will do considerable mischief, though not very great, if let alone. Larger broods come off in June or July, and do their mischief in July or August. These seem to have a stronger liking for the black, or the choke cherry, but will do great mischief to the apple tree, if not headed off, or fought down. The eggs from which the apple tree caterpillars are produced, are deposited on a small twig, in August or September, in a ring extending quite round the shoot, but a little protuberant on one side. Each egg is deposited in a separate cell, like the cells of a honey-comb; but, if possible, arranged with more exactness, and in more beautiful order. The whole are covered with a transparent water-proof cement, leaving the color so much like the natural color of the branch, that they are not easily discovered. A person might tend an orchard a life-time without seeing one, if his attention was not specially called to it. These, if let alone, will remain till the warmth of spring hatches the young, when they burst the cement, and crawl downward to the first convenient offset of shoots, a little army, where they make their encampment, spin their thread, and weave it into a sort of web, spread their white coat, and thus become so distinctly visible as to be a fair subject of attack; and if taken in time, it is no great trouble to eject them. The branch, if not large, as it seldom is, should be cut off and burnt. If the branch is large, or if you insist upon sparing the small branches, rub the encampment down with a leather glove, and the enemy is extinct.

The June or July broods may be treated in the same way. The work, in this case, should be a little more thoroughly done, because, at this season, the weather being milder and less subject to north-east storms, if you let a few stragglers escape, they will sometimes rebuild their tent, and continue their mischief; whereas, in May, if the nest is broken up, little harm need be anticipated from an occasional wanderer. The limbs, if high, may be cut by a long pair of pruning sheers, or just as well by a sharp scythe affixed to a pole. But the limbs should in all cases be gathered and burnt. There has been much said about blowing these nests with powder. An active boy would destroy ten of them in the way we have named, sooner than he would load his gun. It has been recommended to burn them with a torch at the end of a long pole. If the torch light is hot enough to extinguish the insects, it would do the limb no good. Washes of vinegar and pepper, of salt and water, of lime, of soap-suds, and, we believe of cheap rum—which certainly would kill if anything would; at least does kill—have been recommended. Those who want to increase the labour of extermination would do well to try them.

But prevention is always better than cure; and we will now propose a plan in which we should put the greatest reliance, and will suggest a method of carrying it out most effectually. Those deposits of eggs, of which we have spoken, are hard to be seen.—But a quick eye will detect them; and the best time is in the winter; and if the ground is covered with snow, so much the better, because it reflects the light advantageously. Go through the orchard on a clear sunny day; and with your back towards the sun, look for a slight enlargement of the twigs, a swell in those from the size of your little finger down to that of a pipe stem. If you notice one, examine it with a microscope. A glass from grandmother's spectacles will do if you have no better. If you observe something of the appearance of a honey-comb, you may calculate that you have a host of embryonic enemies in your power. Note the appearance carefully, and you will detect another tribe more easily. But this is the best work for the boys. Their eyes are better. Let them cut off and burn these enemies, while yet in the egg. But will the boys do it? Yes, if you will inspire them with a motive. We do not much like the idea of hiring boys to work for their parents. And yet, why not a boy have an opportunity to earn something for himself, while other boys are at play? There can be no harm in it, if he will at the same time learn to value money, and to spend it wisely.—You may have two or three sharp-eyed boys from ten to sixteen years old. We propose that you show them a half-eagle. Explain its value. Tell them you will hold it for