

sustain itself in the air, and allows the breeze to waft it along. An observer proved this by ascending to the top of the State University of Nebraska, when a swarm of locusts was passing, and letting loose among the flying grasshoppers small bunches of cotton. He found that the cotton sailed along quite as fast as the grasshoppers did.

Their numbers are inconceivably great. A British officer who saw a swarm in Syria estimated their number at 180,000,000,000,000. The clouds of them seen in the West have often exceeded 50 miles in length by 20 in breadth, with a depth of from a quarter of a mile to a mile; 1,500,000 bushels of their dead bodies were estimated to be lying on the shores of Salt Lake, in Utah, after a visitation of their hordes. And their eggs are found in the ground in numbers of from 100 to 15,000 to the square foot, in localities favorable to their deposition. Such are some of the reliable statistics gathered regarding the Rocky Mountain Locust.



b.
Fig. 19.

This locust is a near relation of our common Canadian locust (*Caloptenus femur-rubrum*), fig. 19. The latter has often been injurious to the crops, particularly of grass and hay, but has little tendency to migrate. It has a vast range, from Labrador to the Pacific coast, including the Western States and Mississippi Valley as far south as 35°.

A curious and fortunate fact with regard to the locust is that it does not become acclimated in the regions to which it migrates. The hordes from the North, fresh from the invigorating air of the mountains, are much stronger and more vigorous than their progeny, born the succeeding year in the plains of Missouri and the other Western States. Prof. Aughey, of the State University of Nebraska, tested their muscular strength by attaching their hind legs to a delicate spring balance and observing the degree of strength they exerted. He invariably found that the locusts from the mountains were stronger than those born in the plains. He also found that the mountain insects could live without food for several days longer than the others. Their eggs are also injured by the moister climate, so that it is estimated that fully one-half become addled and never hatch. These circumstances tend to so reduce their numbers in the new habitat that in a few years the species dies out.

Leaving the locusts, we will pass to the more pleasing duty of noticing