

see a beautiful provision Providence has made for the perpetuity of what we look upon as an insignificant wasp. It has been provided with instinct to guide her; indeed, it appears to me that she has a kind of understanding that her progeny are to be brought forth gradually, therefore she only deposits a single egg at a time, when a lapse of a day or more occurs between each, which is no doubt caused in order that her labor in the collecting of food (for they are ravenous eaters in their larval state) may be brought about with greater facility, or, correctly speaking, that the time for procuring food and watching the nest will be equally divided. She is therefore only compelled to feed two at a time; and by the period of the issue of larvae from advanced eggs, the first two have ceased to feed and are no more trouble to her, as they are prepared to spin cocoons to enclose themselves in their cells to undergo the third stage of their life. The parent wasp has also the accuracy and knowledge of a bird in regard to the locality of its nest; indeed, the attachment is as great, and which is not abandoned until it is deserted by her progeny to construct the second. I have had the pleasure of watching the formation of the parent nests of *Vespa maculata* and *germanica* from the time they were commenced until completion, and I now record a difference in their mode of working from the European *V. vulgaris* or its American representative, *i. e.*, that the pedicel and the tier of cells are the last portions of the work finished. In some rare examples, the inner dome and part of the second exterior envelope are not fully completed when the pedicel and tier of cells is attached to the roof; but there may be a force of nature in these deviations from the general plan of architecture, which I am not prepared to solve. Kirby says: "That the common wasp of Europe (*Vespa vulgaris*, Linn.) only partially completes the dome before the uppermost tier of cells are begun, and when the first tier is finished, the continuation of the roof or walls of the building is brought down lower; a new tier of cells is erected, and this work successively proceeds until the whole is finished."—*Introduction to Entomology*, Vol. I., p. 504-5. The first and second nests of *V. maculata* and *germanica*, with the exception of the rare specimens before mentioned, are not formed in this manner, for all those which I have examined had their exterior covering and the aperture fully formed before the first or second tiers of cells were commenced. In order to confirm my former statement that the parent nest is abandoned by the first issue of wasps, and that it is not enlarged, as many people suppose, one of these little nests was found occupying the full extent of a cavity in an old tree stump. It contained a single tier of eighteen perfect cells, which I believe is the maximum number of the parent nest. They are found from one and a half to three inches in diameter, and contain from one to four partitions or envelopes. These distinctions may be attributed to the bulk and strength of the parent architect—for I find a great difference in the size of hibernial females—one found under bark of a tree at Quebec, on the 20th of May, measured seven-eighths of an inch, and two others which I found under decayed leaves in the