

with another epistolary shot ; in due time, under date March 17, 1873, came another letter from Couper thus : ' I have purposely delayed a reply to your favor of 2nd, because since its receipt I wrote again to Mr. W. Saunders for the desired information, and my letter was written in terms which could not deter him from answering ; however, no answer has been received.' After receiving this letter, I, of course, concluded that Mr. Saunders' time was of too much value to be encroached upon, and requested Mr. Couper to by no means trouble him again, as his dignified silence at last brought me to a proper sense of my true position, and was a merited punishment to both Couper and myself for our temerity."

I did receive the two letters referred to from Mr. Couper. In the first, dated Jan. 21, Mr. C. asks me where I obtained the *Papilio* described as *brevicauda*, and whether I would loan him a specimen, as he wished to compare it with some *Anticosti* *Papilio*'s which had been named for him by his U. S. correspondents as *P. polyxenes*. There were other matters referred to in the letter which I wished to attend to before replying to Mr. Couper, and as I was then extremely busy, and was obliged to leave home for a while, not knowing either that there was any pressing need of an immediate answer, I deferred writing for a time. In the second letter, dated March 3rd, Mr. C. refers again among other matters to *P. brevicauda*, expresses no disappointment at my not answering his first, does not even now ask for a prompt reply, or hint that any of the information he desires was for anyone but himself. Indeed, after referring to some differences which he thought existed between his *Anticosti* specimens and my *brevicauda* from Newfoundland, he says : " It is *my intention* to investigate this matter further," and referred to the opportunities he hoped to have on revisiting the Island. To this second letter I replied as promptly as possible, within a few days, and gave Mr. C. all the information in my power in reference to *brevicauda*, as well as satisfactory reasons why I had not written sooner.

It was scarcely kind of Mr. Couper to give me no hint of the terrible state of excitement under which his friend, poor Mr. Strecker, was at that time laboring, boiling over, as he evidently was, with indignation towards one who was perfectly innocent of all knowledge of his wants. Had I known the state of his mind my sympathies would at once have been aroused and I should have written promptly, when I suppose this formidable bull of his would never have been fulminated against me, and I should have been spared from being impaled on the sharp end of Mr.