

remedy of that most harrowing of pains, the tooth-ache. The learned President of the Entomological Society of Ontario says that he has never possessed sufficient courage to test its qualities himself, but a well-known American brother of the net and bottle tells us that he tried this application in two instances, and the tooth-ache was immediately relieved; but he confesses that he was uncertain whether the remedy or the faith of the patient acted therapeutically, or the tooth ceased troubling of itself. Let us be charitable and give the benefit of the doubt to the pretty little beetle.

The Germans call these insects *Marien-kaefer*, Lady beetles of the Virgin Mary; while in France they have the equally fine names of *Vaches de Deice*, or *Betes de la Vierge*, Cows of the Lord or animals of the Virgin. And they have good claims to be held in such esteem, for they are most beneficial to man in destroying the plant-lice, which, if allowed to go on propagating and increasing unchecked, would soon reduce the most fertile country into a barren and a howling wilderness. Lady-birds both in their perfect and in their larval state, feed on these lice, and, providentially, few trees, plants or shrubs infested by these disgusting and destructive creatures are to be found whereon is not also this antidote for them. The grubs, which are of a flattened shape and darkish color, spotted usually with red or yellow, and furnished with six short legs near the fore part of the body, are far more voracious than the mature insect; they creep along on the leaves of plants until they find the helpless Aphides, among which they ravage and riot like wolves in a sheep-cot, and then, doubtless, many a heart-broken Aphis parent, pointing to the aldermanic proportions of the lady, exclaim: "Foul murder hath been done; lo! here's the proof!"

Occasionally Lady-birds occur in immense swarms. Kirby and Spence relate that on one occasion the banks of the Humber were so thickly strewn with the common species, that it was difficult to walk without treading upon them; at another time they covered in great numbers the sand-hills of Norfolk, and again, the cliffs of Kent and Sussex, "to the no small alarm of the superstitious, who thought them the forerunners of some direful evil."

The eggs of these little creatures are long and oval, of a yellowish color and deposited in patches, oftentimes among a colony of plant-lice, so that, thanks to the wondrous instinct of the mother, the larvae have not far to crawl to get their first hearty meal.