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OCTOBER 13, 1910

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

1643

which ran around the worm's body being less in number, and by next spring I hope they will all break their cocoons and turn into beautiful butterflies.

The other day I found some eggs, which were laid by a butterfly on a cocoon which was empty, all except a shell left behind by a pupa. I took them into the house, and want to watch them hatch into caterpillars. They were about the size of a pin-head, and of a grayish-white color, and, when cracked between the finger-nails, would produce a juicy matter. I am enclosing you a few to see if I am right.

The caterpillar undergoes three changes, which are called metamorphoses. In the first state it is called the larva (the caterpillar, or worm), and is produced from an egg, laid by a butterfly. The second is the pupa (or when in a cocoon), and undergoes changes in turning from a worm into a butterfly. The next state is called the perfect state (the butterfly). The cecropia moth tells us this also, for

Now that the season is upon us "when the frost is on the pumpkin, and the corn is in the shock," how many of the Beavers are making collections of autumn leaves? Gather all the different colors and shades of leaves you can find, place them between the leaves of a book until the moisture is pressed out of them. Then dip them in melted wax, such as is used for sealing fruit jars. Care must be taken to have the wax at the right temperature. If too hot, the leaf will shrivel; if too cold, it will harden in lumps on the leaf. This treatment will cause them to retain their gloss.

I have enclosed an article on the habits of ants, which I clipped from a magazine, and, if Puck thinks it worth printing, it may prove interesting.

Peterboro Co., Ont.

Do you reason that the spines on the back of the caterpillar protect the creature by terrifying its enemies? Well, perhaps they do. Especially do they



My First Sermon.
(From a painting by Millais.)



My Second Sermon.
(Millais.)

at first it is a caterpillar as shown, then has turned into a moth. Well, I think my composition is long enough. I must hurry out, as I am afraid I have taken too much room in this little corner. Wishing you every success, I remain,

VINA ERB (age 13, Book V.).
Crosshill, Ont., R. R. No. 2.

The caterpillars spin their silk from an internal secretion, Vina. I hope you will have success with hatching out the eggs that you have in boxes now. Write us about this experiment, won't you? You must remember that flies and beetles also are hatched from eggs, and go through the metamorphoses.

Prize Essay.

Dear Puck and Beavers,—As it will be a few months yet before I will have to migrate from the Circle, I thought I would write on the competition.

The larva of the cecropia moth is divided into thirteen segments, each of which has a number of projections covered with short spines, which act as a protection against birds and other enemies. Its color harmonizes with the color of the trees on which it feeds, thus affording it means of protection. The sharp mandibles enable it to cut the edges of the leaves on which it depends for its food. Lastly, its body is destitute of hairs, so that it has to make a cocoon out of a leaf, which it binds up with silk.

The larva passes the winter months in its cocoon, and emerges in the warm weather in spring in the form of a moth. The moth flies and seeks its food at night, the feathery antennae enabling it to do this to some extent. During the day it hides in some place where it will not be readily seen.

One day in July I broke open an ant-hill. I then took an ant from a hill near by, and put it among the ants of the first one. It was immediately seized and torn to pieces. I next took two ants, one from each hill, killed the one taken from the first, and rubbed its crushed body over the second, and put it among the angry ants as I did the first. It was not molested. This shows that ants recognize others of their own colony by scent.

terrify children who might sometimes meddle, do they not?

I think you have become a little confused as to the cecropia's method of making its cocoon. May I quote you from Smith's "Entomology"? "Next we reach the series of species that are silk-spinners par excellence. . . . The most common of these spinners is the cecropia, the caterpillar occurring on a great variety of plants, including many of our fruit trees and certain small fruits. The caterpillar is green, and has six rather prominent warts on the segments, of which four are coral-red in color, and the hinder two are yellow. . . . The cocoon is sometimes spun in bushes, attached to a twig, sometimes at an angle of a fence, or wherever the caterpillar happens to consider it convenient. The moth is dusky brown, and powdery, the hinder margins clay-colored, a kidney-shaped dull-red spot with a white center, and a narrow, black edging is near the middle of each wing, and beyond the spot is a wavy dull-red band, bordered internally with white."

Your letter is very interesting, Ontario Boy. Indeed, all the letters are very interesting to-day. I like to see our young people investigating for themselves.

Many thanks for the clipping. I will print it some day.

Prize Essay.

Dear Puck and Beavers All,—I have never written to the Beaver Circle before, and, as one must begin somewhere, I thought that I might as well begin now by writing on the competition of "A Fall Fair" that I attended.

The fair that I attended was held at Chesley, on Sept. 20th and 21st. We went on the afternoon of the 21st. The day was fine, but a little chilly.

On the way we noticed how the leaves were turning to autumn's beautiful colors, and one branch in particular we noticed. It looked like great drops of blood falling among the cedar branches in a swamp. We also saw a cocoon among some silver-leaved poplars.

On arriving at the fair grounds, we learned from the gate-keeper that we had still an hour and a half to enjoy ourselves and see the fair.

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