

INSECTS INJURIOUS TO THE POTATO.

ATTACKING THE FOLIAGE ONLY.

BY E. B. REED, LONDON, ONT.

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| 1. The three-lined Leaf Beetle (<i>Lema tri lineata</i> , Oliv.) | 4. The Ash-Gray Blister Beetle (<i>Epicauta cinerea</i> , Fabr.) |
| 2. The Colorado Potato Beetle, or Ten-lined Spearman (<i>Doryphora 10-lineata</i> , Say.) | 5. The Potato or Tomato Worm (<i>Sphinx quinquemaculata</i> , Haw.) |
| 3. The Striped Blister Beetle (<i>Epicauta vittata</i> , Fabr.) | |

With the exception of wheat, that staff of human life, there is, we imagine, no other crop so universally cultivated both in farm and garden, and so important as an article of diet for all classes of the community, as that of the potato. Esteeming this vegetable so highly as we all do at this present day, it is somewhat amusing to glance back over its early history, and gather the opinions of some of our ancestors. At the end of the sixteenth century, nearly one hundred years after its introduction into Great Britain, we find a writer remarking that "they are much used in Ireland and America as bread, and may be propagated with advantage to poor people." The popular taste for this esculent tuber took a long time for its education, and it was not until the middle of the last century that the potato came into general use both in England and Northern America. It was even then long disparagingly described by the gluttonous wisecracks of the time, as "a root found in the New World, consisting of little knobs, held together by strings; if you boil it well, it *can* be eaten; it *may* become an article of food; it will certainly do for hogs; and, though it is rather flatulent and acid in the human stomach, perhaps, if you boil it with dates, it may serve to keep body and soul together, among those who can find nothing better." To us, of this nineteenth century, this verdict may seem most ridiculous, but we ought not to forget that there must be a very wide difference between "the little knobs" of those early days, and the magnificent growth to which proper cultivation has now brought the potato. In this noble Province of Ontario, we find that this crop is annually becoming larger and more important, and therefore anything that affects its prosperity cannot fail to be of interest to all our agriculturists, and the more especially at this period when we are threatened most seriously with the attacks of an insect that has completely devastated the potato fields for some years past in the Western States. The recent advent of the Colorado potato beetle in Canada, has excited considerable apprehensions among our farmers and gardeners; and we have, therefore, thought it desirable to lay before our readers, a plain and accurate account of some of the various insects which infest the potato, and whose attacks are directed exclusively against the foliage of the plant. The senior Editor of the *American Entomologist*, the late B. D. Walsh, in a very able and exhaustive article on this subject, has admirably epitomised the following sketch of the insect foes of the potato, he writes: "There are no less than ten distinct species of bugs, preying upon the potato plant within the limits of the United States. Many of these ten species are confined within certain geographical limits. The habits and history of several of them differ as widely as those of a hog and a horse; some attack the potato, both in the larval state, and in the perfect or winged state; others in the perfect or winged state alone: and others again in the larval state alone. In the case of seven of these insects, there is but one single brood