

was in its early membranous state with its white centre discernable. The result of the operation of such innumerable enemies as these insects must be the utter exhaustion of the grain. As the white kernel of the grain is secreted, it must be sucked into the hungry stomachs of these destructive animals; and the whole crop, supposing them to be as numerous throughout as on this specimen, must be shrivelled, half-grown, with very little flower in the grain, even if it ever reaches maturity. A more perfect boring apparatus, at the same time hollow, with great powers of suction, capable of drawing into the stomach of the animal every fluid particle in the grain, could not be devised or imagined. So soon as the grain hardens, the crop must be safe from this insect, unless future observation shows that it can derive subsistence from the fluids of the stalks as well as from the grain itself. Not one of the insects I have seen on this ear had attempted to penetrate the stalk, but that may be because being, as the saying is, "sworn at Highgate," it likes the juicy grain better, and when the grain becomes hard, they may turn their attention to the stalk. I do not think this very probable. But if I were a farmer and found my field covered with them I should be very much inclined to cut it down for hay, and wheat makes good hay when cut green, (I have cut many acres of it for hay when in Australia,) and sow the field for another crop of hay with any grain, such as rye or millet, or anything likely to yield a crop of this season. It would be found almost impossible to shake the insect off the ear. I doubt if a storm of wind and rain would do much to wash or shake them off, for they are possessed of good holding legs and feet and grasp the plant very tenaciously, and in addition to their legs, they have their "rostrum" to hold on with. Rain would only wash off the unattached; whether it would kill them I do not know, I should think not, unless the temperature fell very considerably. What other means the farmers possess for destroying the insects must be left to their own judgment. I doubt whether a grain of wheat once penetrated by the "rostrum" of these creatures can ever develop into good wheat, and whether grain so damaged as the ear shown to me would ever be worth so much as an average hay crop. But this is a matter for the judgment of each farmer. I shall be happy to show any farmer the insect and the penetrated grain, if he will bring specimens with him, for when once killed, the insect will not long exhibit its peculiarities. It soon loses its plumpness, and the shape of the rostrum is lost. Those I now possess will not be worth looking at on Monday, when your impression appears.

I think the prevalence of this insect is due to the continuance of dry weather, and may not be expected in ordinary seasons. If this country possessed the small birds of Europe, they would flutter about the ears of a wheat field, and pick

all these insects off before they would become destructive. It is much to be regretted that small birds are so scarce. Every insect-eating bird should be amply protected by every farmer I remain, &c., HENRY LAMOR.

[The following is one of several letters addressed to the Editors of this Journal on the same subject.]

To the Editor of the Canadian Agriculturist.

DEAR SIR:—Enclosed you will find three specimens of wheat of the same variety infested, with a kind of insect previously unknown in this section of the country.

As the wheat midge has of late years been committing serious havoc, in various parts of the Province, some farmers are of opinion that the insect above mentioned is the wheat midge; but after a careful examination of this insect, and comparing it with Professor Hinds's description of the midge, I am satisfied it is not the same. When first seen upon the wheat the insect was of a red fleshy colour; afterwards it changed to a light green colour, probably caused by the animal's prying upon the ascending sap. The insect is very common throughout the County of Waterloo. If you could afford me any information in regard to the nature and habits of the insect,—if injurious to the wheat crop,—or if previously known in other parts of the country,—you would much oblige me as well as a large number of inquiring farmers.

Yours truly,

A. BARRIE.

Galt, July 14, 1862.

The International Exhibition.

LONDON, ENGLAND, June 11, 1862.

Editors of the Canadian Agriculturist.

Since my last there has been rain almost every day. There is a great deal of hay cut, and, although the weather is so precarious, the people manage to get it cured by close attention. I speak of course of the small fields in the immediate vicinity of the city, which I have had the opportunity of occasionally seeing. The races of last week seemed to be very much enjoyed by the population of the city of London. Situated as we are on the Clapham Road, we had a full view of the crowd, in astonishing numbers and in all sorts of vehicles, going and returning. On Monday last, being Whit-Monday and a general holiday, the number at the Exhibition increased up to 60,000, or thereabouts. Yesterday the crowd was very great, and to-day they fill every vacant space. Looking down from the galleries, the movements of