

back of 2nd and 3rd segments, near the junction, and at the second larval stage), and as the grubs hatch they eat their way into the larva, to emerge when both they and the larva are full grown—of course, destroying the latter. Another is Hymenopterous and minute. Its egg is deposited in the very young larva, probably at first stage. The grub eats out when the larva is half grown, at once spins a silken cocoon, from which in a few days the new parasite comes forth. The destruction of larvae by these, and very likely, other similar parasites, is immense. Of about a dozen mature larvae received from Prof. Comstock, but one reached chrysalis, all the rest giving out one of the Diptera spoken of. If any parasite attacked the mature larva, the grub of the former would live within and destroy the chrysalis, and instead of a butterfly therefrom, the parasite would emerge. Multitudes of chrysalids of other species of butterflies are thus destroyed; but in *pseudargiolus* there appears to be a singular immunity from enemies at this stage. I have never yet seen a parasite emerge from a chrysalis. Why this species, and doubtless many other *Lycaena*, are thus favored will perhaps in some degree appear from a little incident to be related. On 20th June, in the woods, I saw a mature larva on its food-plant, and on its back, facing towards the tail of the larva, stood motionless one of the larger ants (designated above as the third in size). At less than two inches behind the larva, on the stem, was a large ichneumon fly, watching its chance to thrust its ovipositor into the larva. I bent down the stem and held it horizontally before me, without alarming either of the parties. The fly crawled a little nearer and rested, and again nearer, the ant making no sign. At length, after several advances, the fly turned its abdomen under and forward, thrust out its ovipositor, and strained itself to the utmost to reach its prey. The sting was just about to touch the extreme end of the larva, when the ant made a dash at the fly, which flew away, and so long as I watched—at least five minutes—did not return. The larva had been quiet all this time, its tubes out of sight and head buried in a flower bud, but the moment the ant rushed and the fly fled, it seemed to become aware of the danger, and thrashed about the end of its body repeatedly in great alarm. But the tubes were not protruded, as I was clearly able to see with my lens. The ant saved the larva, and it is probable that ichneumons would in no case get an opportunity to sting so long as such vigilant guards were about. It strikes me that the larvae know their protectors, and are able and willing to reward them. The advantage is mutual and the association is friendly always.