

persons who never saw several of the described species, or have their knowledge at second hand, and on the strength of this pronounce judicially on the American Argynnides! One of my correspondents, a lepidopterist, not a mere collector, on reading the paper in *Psyche*, wrote me thus: "It is an amazing piece of presumption for a visitor to America to collect and buy a lot of specimens, and on the strength of that to denounce and try to overthrow the work of yourself and Scudder, who have been studying the butterflies for more than a quarter of a century, and must know a thousand times more about them than he possibly can." And another correspondent, of same character, says: "I think it a pity for a man to write on such a subject, unless he can throw some light on it."

Mr. Elwes gives the impression that he had studied the important collections of the country, but he never saw mine, nor that of Mr. Bruce (rich in the Colorado species), nor that of the American Entomological Society in Philadelphia, nor any collection on the Atlantic slope except Dr. Holland's, Mr. Neumoegen's, Mr. H. Edwards's and Mr. Strecker's. On the Pacific, those that he could have seen were local and small. It is known that I have sold my collection to Dr. Holland, but at the time Mr. Elwes visited Pittsburgh, the greater part of the rarer and less known Argynnides, and particularly those that have so perplexed this gentleman, had not been delivered. At Mr. Neumoegen's he scarcely glanced at the group, but gave all his time to the East Indian butterflies. He says himself that he "went through" Mr. Edwards' collection, but, as Mr. Edwards has not returned from Australia, I cannot learn at what pace, though I can imagine it. But he spent considerable time at Reading, and Mr. Strecker tells his friends that "he took copious notes," and that he "gave him many points." The paper shows as much.

I had cordially invited Mr. Elwes to visit me and inspect the Argynnides, but not finding himself able to come, he failed to see the most complete collection in the group treated of ever brought together, containing not only the types of all the species I had described, but every one of Dr. Boisduval's types of Californian species: in other words, of nearly every species described since 1852. Of the two species described by Mr. H. Edwards, and the four by Dr. Behr, I have examples named by them, and in most cases long suites, with all the varieties which during thirty years I had been able to bring together.