America, there must be some cause or other for this singular state of things. What is that cause? It is, as we believe, a simple fact, which is pretty generally recognized now as true by modern naturalists, viz., that the plants and animals of America belong as a general rule to an old-fashioned creation, not so highly improved and developed as the more modernized creation which exists in Europe. In other words, although this is popularly known as the New World, it is in reality a much older world than that which we are accustomed to call the Old World. Consequently our plants and animals can no more stand their ground against European competitors imported from abroad, than the Red Indian has been able to stand his ground against the white Caucasian race. On the other hand, if by chance an American plant or an American animal finds its way into Europe, it can, as a general rule, no more stand its ground there against its European competitors than a colony of Red Indians could stand their ground in England, even if you gave them a whole county of land and an ample stock, tools and provisions to begin with. For throughout animated nature, as has been conclusively shown by Charles Darwin, there is a continual struggle for existence, the stronger and more favourably organized species overpowering and starving out from time to time their less vigorous and less favourably organized competitors. Hence it is as hopeless a task for a poor puny old-fashioned American bug to contend against a strong, energetic, highly developed European bug as it would be for a fleet of old-fashioned wooden ships to fight against a fleet of our modern iron-clads." Mr. Riley gives also another and perhaps the correct reason why the insects which are imported into this country multiply at a prodigious rate. . . It is that "whenever an injurious insect is introduced in our midst, as a general rule the particular parasite or parasites which kept it in check abroad are not introduced with it. Now, if what I have read are facts, and doubtless they are, it is evident that the Colorado Potato Beetle, even if it does reach any part of the Old World, will have a poor chance of extension, believing that that law which governs the struggle for existence will be brought to bear against it, as has been the case in regard to other introduced species from this country."

A few years hence will prove these statements—that is to say, if the Colorado Potato Beetle reaches Europe within that time. It was introduced into Canada in 1869; during the latter year it was first noticed near Point Edward, at the extreme south of Lake Huron, and opposite Detroit, near Windsor, at the south-western corner of St. Clair. Since then it has been making its way towards the Province of Quebec. It was last noticed on the eastern confines of Ontario, so that at its present rate of spreading, we may expect this most destructive insect in our neighbourhood at no distant day.

I now beg to return thanks for your attention to the welfare of the Branch, as well as for the kindness shown me while presiding over you since it was formed.

WILLIAM COUPER,
Montreal.

ADDRESS OF THE INCOMING PRESIDENT OF THE MONTREAL BRANCH OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.

GENTLEMEN,—On assuming the duties of the office which you have so kindly conferred upon me, I wish to make a few remarks in the hope and with the object of furthering the interests of our Society, and stimulating us in the study of our science. The excellent address given at our last meeting by our retiring President was, in the parts relating to our Society, mainly retrospective in character, as befitted the occasion; but as we are now beginning another year's studies, I intend my remarks to be prospective—looking forward to what we may do during the present season, and endeavouring to point out some things which, I think, will help us on individually, and advance our studies as a whole.

To the statement that Entomology is a pleasing, nay, a fascinating pursuit, you will all readily agree. That it is also the means of healthful and innocent recreation, is also a truth to which your assent will be cordially given. And it is not only a pleasing study and a healthful recreation, but also a *science* requiring close and deep research in order to properly understand its secrets. I believe that as time goes on, and the study of insects is more and more pursued in a philosophical manner, it will be of great value in solving many of the problems relating to animal life, which now claim the attention of naturalists. It may even aid in elucidating some of the mysteries of past conditions of life in this planet, and supply data