

say that the arrangement of my cabinet specimens is so far perfected that Dr. Horn or I will be willing to name any sets of Rhyncophora of the United States or Dominion of Canada, which are sent us, provided that the return of the specimens sent is not required. The subject has been such an extremely troublesome one, and there are still so many uniques in our cabinets, that they need filling up in order to give them that value for future reference which I hope they will possess, and it will also be desirable for the proper recognition of the new genera and species, many of which are very abundant, that specimens should be distributed to foreigners, who have studied this difficult group of objects.

The excellent volume of Dr. A. S. Packard, jr., "Monograph of the Geometrid Moths of the United States," forming Vol. X of the United States Geological Survey of the Territories, requires special mention among the contributions to Entomology since our last meeting. We owe the existence of this volume to Dr. F. V. Hayden, Geologist-in-Chief of the Survey, and I hope that a continued appreciation by the National Legislature of the importance of the work done and published by the survey, will ensure us many future volumes of similar merit.

The ordinary routine work of the description of new genera and species, is going on in the various orders of insects with about the usual degree of rapidity. But from every one comes the same complaint: Too many new forms to be described!

The observations on economic applications of Entomology for the protection of agriculture are also advancing in a most commendable manner, considering that the public and their servants in office still fail to recognise the magnitude of the interests involved.

References to the memoirs contained in the volumes of reports, and to isolated papers in agricultural and other journals, will be found in *Psyche*, a periodical, which, though small, is indispensable to every one occupied in the study of the insects of North America.

I would gladly stop here, but a truthful instinct, a sense of duty to science, and my obligation to you alike forbid silence. I have to speak of a subject of a disagreeable nature.

It is concerning the efforts made by you and other members of the Association at the last meeting at Detroit, to procure the appointment of a Commission for the protection of agriculture against noxious insects; this Commission to be composed of properly informed men of science, and chosen under such circumstances as would prevent the influence of political bias, or personal favouritism. If I do not fatigue your memory too much, you will recollect the memorials that were so extensively signed in relation to this subject, copies of which memorials are again before you. These memorials were extensively circulated at the West, and were signed by many of the most influential bodies for the promotion and protection of agriculture in that region. During the winter these memorials were sent to Congress, in the expectation that some proper legislation would follow. One of the Senators, in fact, introduced a bill which seems to have been very carefully considered, and indeed bears upon its face some evidence of scientific guidance. This bill provided for the appointment of three Commissioners for five years, the Commissioners to be nominated by the Council of the National Academy of Science to the Secretary of the Interior. This bill, having been referred to the Committee on Agriculture, was returned, completely orchidized, in such form as to provide for one Commissioner, to be appointed by the Department of Agriculture, the very enemy and incubus from which the western agriculturists specially desired to be relieved.

The bill in this form passed the Senate, several of the members taking occasion in the discussion which preceded the passage to talk to the demonstration of their own ignorance of the subject. However, this discussion has been already so severely commented upon in several of the newspapers of the Mississippi Valley that it is quite unnecessary for me to add anything farther, except the hope that the Legislature which choose the successors of those Senators will have men of better education and higher intelligence offered to them as candidates for the position.

I regret to have been obliged to introduce this unpleasant subject, about which I feel a warmth and severity, unsuited to the position in which you have placed me. I must therefore close by begging you, in your respective localities, to continue aiding me in my