

One other brief statement, showing the strange way in which some insects obtain food will suffice.

Passing a High "Bush Cranberry" I notice that the leaves are curled up, and look unhealthy; and that a number of ants are busy about the plants. "It is an ill wind that blows no body any good." The ants are turning the plant's difficulties to account. If we look under the leaves we shall find a number of aphides or plant-lice with their beaks fastened into the leaves, drawing the nourishment from them. Now watch the manœuvres of the ants and you will find that they embrace or tickle the aphides with their antennæ. And the aphides either indignant at the liberties taken with them, or convulsed with laughter at the fun, eject the fluid they have imbibed, and the ants immediately sip it up. You will see a sly old ant run first to one and then to another causing each in turn to yield up its treasure until his appetite is satisfied.

II.—The second plan I shall recommend for cultivating a taste for Natural History is the formation of School Museums, Libraries and Gardens.

Aiding in the formation of collections of dried plants, insects, and natural curiosities generally, I know from experience, will lead young persons to take an interest in the operations of Nature, and train them in habits of observation.

A cabinet of shallow drawers with glass covers is the proper receptacle for preserved insects, but cases, such as may be hung upon the walls will be found useful and much less expensive. The scientific arrangement whether of insects or plants according to their *Orders, Genera and Species* will be found most interesting to many persons; and the exceeding beauty of some of the specimens to be arranged cannot fail to be attractive to others. Plants and other objects from remarkable places will have a double charm.

To his cabinet of natural curiosities the teacher will find it useful to resort, again and again, in giving his lessons. For instance; I may be speaking on a subject to which I have already alluded, *Mimetic Analogy*. By Mimetic Analogy we understand the resemblance which a living creature bears to another object—a resemblance given it for its welfare. The resemblance is most interesting where it is between one animate object and another, as in the case of the Clear Wings and Humble Bees. From the contents of my cabinet I show that one insect (*Thecla Rubi*) resembles a green leaf, another (*Gastropacha Quercifolia*) a bunch of dry leaves, a third (*Calocampa exoleta*) a fragment of loose bark a fourth (*Catocala Cerogama*) a piece of lichen, a fifth (*Spectrum femorata*) a twig, and so on.

I have many a time mistaken some inanimate object for an insect. How often I have passed by an insect supposing it to be an inanimate object, of course I cannot say.

Some very beautiful Wall Sheets of Natural History may be met with to aid in the work of classification. Such a one is Redfield's "General View of the Animal Kingdom," published by Kellogg, of New-York. In it the Animal World is represented by four divergent streams, dividing and subdividing as they extend, and bearing at their extremities representations of characteristic creatures.

The following table will give an idea of the position the insects occupy in the arrangement.

