

the winds, like the seeds of thistles and other winged plants.

Mr. Walker calls attention to the fact that the aphid has many insect and other enemies in Europe, and in Canada it also has its enemies which during the past two seasons have been busily at work lessening its numbers. These have been so graphically depicted by Dr. Fitch, in the Albany Country Gentlemen, that I cite his description:—"On many of the wheat heads may at present be noticed from from one to half a dozen of these lice, which are very large, plump and swollen, of the colour of brown paper, standing in a posture so perfectly natural you suppose that they are alive. Touch them with a point of a pin, you will find that they are dead. Pick off a part of their brittle skin; you see there is inside a white maggot, doubled together like a ball. Put one of these wheat heads in a vial, closing its mouth with a wad of cotton. In a week's time or less, you find running actively about in the vial, some little black flies like small ants. These you see have come out from the dead lice through a circular opening which has been cut in their backs. Drive one or two of these flies into another vial, and introduce to them a wheat having some fresh lice. See how the fly runs about among them examining them with its antennae. Having found one adapted to his wants, watch how dexterously it curves its body forward under its breast, bringing the tip before its face, as if to take aim with its sting. There, the aphid gives a shrug, the fly has pricked it with its sting an egg has been lodged under its skin, from which will grow a maggot like that first seen inside of the dead swollen aphid. And thus the little fly runs busily around among the lice on the wheat heads, stinging one after another, till it exhausts its stock of eggs, a hundred probably or more, thus ensuring the death of that number of lice. And of its progeny, fifty we may suppose to be females by which five thousand more will be destroyed. We thus see what effectual agents these parasites are in subduing the insect on which they prey. I find three different species of them now at work in our fields destroying this grain aphid. I have not space here to describe them. A particular account of them will be given in my Report in the forthcoming volume of Transactions of our State Agricultural Society. And aiding these parasites in the work which they have been created to perform, are several other insects to which I can only briefly allude. A lady bug or Coccinella (*C. 9-notata*, Herbst) a pretty little beetle, nearly the size and shape of a half pea, of a bright yellow or red colour, with nine small black spots, has all the season been common in our grain field, it and its larvæ feeding on this aphid. Another insect of the same kind, but much smaller and black, with ten yellow dots on its wing covers, (*Brachyacantha 10-pustulata*, Melsheimer,) is little less common. The Chrosopa, or Goldeneye flies, are also there, placing their white eggs at the summit of slender threads that their young may feed on these lice. The larvæ of different Syrphus flies, small worms shaped like leeches, may also be seen on the grain heads, reaching about as an elephant does with his trunk, till an aphid is found, which is thereupon immediately seized and pulled from its foothold and devoured."

Photography.

THE USES OF PHOTOGRAPHY.

The *North British Review* contains an excellent *resumé* of the progress of Photography from the pen of Sir David Brewster. The following extract will be interesting to all admirers of this wonderful art; which is even yet in its infancy—

Importance to the Naturalist.

"The importance of photography in enabling the naturalist to represent with accuracy the various forms of animal and vegetable life cannot be too highly appreciated, both in its relations to art and to education. When we consider the vast number of species in zoology the noble forms of animated nature, whether wild or domesticated, and the services which many of them perform as the slaves of man, we can hardly attach too much importance to their accurate delineation. The Landseers, Copes, Andsells, and Rosa Bonheurs of the present day give us fine delineations of the deer, the cattle, the dogs, the horses, and other animals which are associated with the wants and amusements of man; but even fine art might derive some advantage from their truthful photographs whether in plane perspective or in solid relief. When we look at the pictures with which Buffon has caricatured the world of instinct, we long to possess genuine representations of the giraffe, the lion, the tiger, the elephant, the gorilla, and the other noble animals which we see only in prison and in chains. With a truthful camera and an instantaneous process, the denizens of the jungle and the fields might be taken captive in their finest attitudes and their most restless moods; and binocular photographs thus obtained, and raised into relief, would furnish valuable ideas to the painters and the poets, whose works or whose epics may require an introduction to the brutes that perish."

"The engraver has endeavoured to copy and perpetuate the finest productions of the pencil and the chisel; and the traveller, in his hurried sketches, has still more imperfectly represented to us the edifices of ancient and modern civilization. But the sun has outstripped them both; and though he has as yet only one colour on his palette, he exhibits on his canvas every visible point and line in his subject, and every variety of light, shadow and lustre, which the hour of the day or the state of the weather may impress upon it."

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Importance to the Sculptor.

"To the sculptor sun-painting is still more valuable. The living subject affords him little choice of material. Swathed in opaque drapery, the human figure mocks his eager eye, and it is only by stolen glances, or during angel visits, that he can see those divine forms which it is his business to perpetuate. He must therefore quit his home, and spend months and years in the museums of foreign art, copying day after day those master triumphs of genius which have been consecrated by the taste of ages. Brought back to his own studio, these copies will be his principal instructors. They will exhibit to him forms more than human, though human still, embodying all that is true and