

The sixth conclusion (p. 238) of the Professor is also an adoption of B. Wagner's views: "That it was introduced from Southern Europe, either Southern France or Mediterranean regions, perhaps Asia Minor, before the Revolutionary War." But Wagner speaks with more reserve and caution. Having felt the strength of the objections to an introduction of the insect by a longer voyage, he supposes that importation had been possible only from the nearest coast of France. But his assumption of the long-existing occurrence of the insect in Southern France is not corroborated by any fact whatsoever, beyond the few specimens found in 1834 by Mr. Dana near Toulon. Whether a large trade between the Mediterranean shores and North America existed before the Revolution, or not, I am unable to state. But some very interesting facts out of the memorandum book of his father, communicated by the late Mr. N. Silsbee, show that immediately after the Revolution an active trade from Salem, Mass., to Leghorn and other Italian cities, was kept up, principally bringing over American meal. It may therefore be supposed that this trade was not an entirely new feature, at least it was spoken of as a well known fact. Had not the difficulty, or perhaps better, the impossibility, of introducing the insect by trade been proved by the immense trade during all this time with England, where by the greatest care and attention the insect was never observed in the cargoes, it could have been assumed that the fly had been introduced just by American trade to all the places visited by Mr. Dana. At least there was the same chance for an introduction from Europe to America, as from America to Europe. Nevertheless just this difficulty makes it more plausible that the insect was indigenous here as well as in the Old World, a statement so well expressed a century ago by Dr. Mitchell (*Encycl. Britan.*, p. 494).

The *Memoirs of the Philad. Soc. for Promoting Agriculture*, contain in Vol. IV., 1818, p. xxix., Notes for a Young Farmer, etc., by Richard Peters, President of the Soc. :

It is not yet agreed what kind of wheats best withstand the Hessian Fly. . . . Good farming, manure and reasonably late sowing are certainly the best securities. It is most probably a native here. It never entirely leaves us, though it appears at irregular periods in numbers less scourging than at times when its ravages are more conspicuously destructive. [Here follows the passage concerning its name, as quoted before; and p. lii., a note of Say's description of the fly and its parasites.]

P. xl., Address on the Progress of Agriculture, January 14, 1817, by James Mease, M. D., Vice-President.