

the latter part of May and the early weeks of June. By the 5th of the latter month they had become about two-thirds grown, when the daily consumption of foliage was so immense that their presence attracted general attention and the most vigorous onslaughts were made on them from all sides. But notwithstanding they were slain every day by

Fig. 6.



millions, their numbers seemed scarcely to diminish. In many places the forests by the middle of June were so completely denuded that they afforded but little more shade than in mid-winter, trees of all kinds suffering severely. They attacked the oak, ash, basswood, maple, thorn, cherry, beech and hickory, as well as almost all sorts of fruit and ornamental trees, and during June their activity in travelling from place to place was so incessant that the most constant vigilance was required to save favorite trees from destruction. Their habit of congregating in large masses on the trunks of the trees they fed on in the mornings rendered their partial destruction comparatively easy; had it not been for this scarcely a leaf would have been left on any of the trees named in the whole neighborhood.

When the larvæ began to change to chrysalids they sewed up the remaining fragments of the few leaves still unconsumed on the trees into all kinds of curious shapes, each enclosure frequently protecting two or three cocoons. These cases hanging pendant with the weight of their contents, and with the paler under surfaces of the leaves displayed, looked in many instances as if a crop of some strange fruit was maturing. On gathering a number of the chrysalids, a very large proportion of them were found infested with parasites, chiefly dipterous, with occasional examples of the hymenopterous order.

Early in July the evenings were enlivened by large numbers of the moths which flew vigorously about in lighted rooms, thumping against everything in their erratic and apparently aimless flight. In a few days their egg masses were to be seen in considerable numbers on the branches of fruit and forest trees, where they will remain, unless otherwise destroyed, until the period of their hatching next spring.