

school there may be some foundation laid for carrying on more extensive study.

To the farmer it is needless to say how important this kind of knowledge is, and must necessarily, from the nature of his calling, continue to be.

To proceed upon another tack for a little while, we may try to answer the question that will naturally suggest itself to us from the title of this paper: Why call these relations of ours "poor?" Well, I refer to them in this way, not because they are absolutely poor, but because they are only somewhat deficient, as compared with ourselves, in that soft, gray, convoluted substance—that mysteriously wonder-working pulpy stuff with which all teachers are undoubtedly so largely endowed—*Brain*.

In many respects the lower animals, if the lower animals had sense enough—that is, did they but possess a little more brain-power, or its equivalent, as believed in by Sir John Lubbock—might well look down upon us with feelings of contempt.

The *Arachnida*, or spider family, are furnished with eyes not only in front, but above or behind. What a terrible being a teacher would be thus armed, or rather eyed! Let us thank the Fates it is otherwise with us, for even with a pair we sometimes see too much. And picture to yourselves if you can the unutterable misery of an urchin behind you, who, burning with hot desire to insert the finer end of a pin into his enemy on the next seat, is rooted to the spot as he sees your third optic blinking and winking right in the parting of your hair, somewhere between the crown of your head and the collar of your coat! It is really terrible to contemplate such a state of affairs, and we shall drop the subject.

The house-fly, in common I think with every other insect, has compound eyes, equal in value to many thousands

of simple ones like our own; the nearest approach to this arrangement on the part of the human species that has ever come to my hearing, being that of the Scotchman (now dead upwards of a hundred years) who was said to have seen half-a-dollar in his hand every time he was about to invest twenty-five cents. I am aware, too, that in certain "spiritual" conditions of our earthly tabernacle, seeing double is not at all an uncommon phenomenon; but these have no bearing in any way upon our subject at present.

The frog has a longer and more pliant, though undoubtedly less voluble tongue than any lady of my acquaintance, with the additional advantage of having it point directly down his throat. Besides this, he is equally at home in a puddle or upon a bank of mud. Like some others of our poor relations, he can boast that he was once, to all intents and purposes, a fish—that is, possessing true gills; that he had disported himself in what was to him the mighty deep; but that, becoming tired of wriggling the tail of a tadpole, he shot out for himself two pair of legs, and furnished himself with lungs, discarding meantime his gills near one end of his body, and his tail at the other. Who wouldn't be a frog, if only the boys could be taught not to throw stones at them? An equally interesting and more valuable creature—the toad—has a tongue by means of which he can transfix his prey nearly two inches away from his nose. I hope every one will be kind to the poor toads. Three years ago, London (England) market-gardeners were paying as high as one pound sterling for a single toad to rid the plants of vermin.

The metamorphoses of batrachians just referred to are not a whit more remarkable than those of many insects, notably the butterfly and the moth, only that the latter attracts slight