

"The first of these is the Columbia plum, a variety of the European species (*Prunus domestica*). The second is the Miner plum, otherwise known as the Huckley plum, Isabel plum, Gilt-plum, Townsend plum, Robinson plum, &c., which is a cultivated variety of one of our American wild plums, distinguished by botanists as the Chickasaw or wild-goose plum (*Prunus chicasaw*). The native name of this wild species seems to be the South-western States; but Dr. Latham quotes it as occasionally found in Illinois. It is altogether different from the common wild plum of the west (*Prunus americana*), which has a much less elongate leaf, and differs in various other respects.

The Columbia plum is stated to be round, fully two inches in diameter, and to ripen in August in South Illinois. It is only of the second quality, either for cooking or eating, fetching \$10 or \$12 a bushel, when the best varieties command \$16. The curculio is said to puncture and lay its eggs in this plum as freely as in others, yet the larva that hatches out is almost invariably drowned by the exuberant flow of juice that is peculiar to this variety.

The Miner plum is described as a deep red, round plum, about one and a half inches in diameter, of a firm texture, with a rather tough and thick skin. In Wisconsin it ripens from the last of September to the beginning of October. It is only worth in the West from \$4 to \$6, when the best cultivated varieties sell for \$12 or \$16; it cannot, therefore, be deemed even second-rate. Still, on the principle that "half a loaf is better than no bread at all" it may be safely recommended to those who have neither the time nor the opportunity to grow prime fruit.

Greenhouse Pests.

The Mealy-bug and the Red Spider, as we hear from the best authority, will stand any amount of tobacco smoke, while Plant-lice (*Aphis*) are easily killed by tobacco smoke. The Red Spider, however, may be got rid of by exposing the infested plants to the rain, and the Mealy-bug by a wash of creosote soap, sufficiently diluted not to injure vegetation. Creosote soap, a very useful agent for the destruction of many kinds of insects, can be obtained from the St. Louis Coal Tar Company, Third Street, St. Louis, Mo.—*American Entomologist*.

A Large Curculio.

In the CANADA FARMER of July 15, 1868, p. 215, we mentioned that we had received a specimen of a large snout-beetle, or curculio, from Mr. J. M. Bristol, of Virgil, county of Lincoln, Ont., and that we were unable to determine it. We have since made it out to be a specimen of *Lixus convarus*, Say, who gives the State of Indiana as its locality, but says nothing as to its food or habits. It

must now be included in our list of Canadian beetles, and we trust that, in time, its natural history may become fully known to us. It is half an inch long, exclusive of the snout, which is long and curved, of a shining black colour, except where obscured by a thick yellowish down, which easily rubs off on the exposed portions of the body. It is chiefly remarkable for the large hollow at the junction of the thorax and wing-covers, whence it derives its specific name of *conca-vus* (hollowed).

TOADS IN GARDENS.—In a lecture on "Insect Enemies," lately delivered by Mr. Treat before the Vineland Agricultural and Horticultural Society, the usefulness of toads in gardens was forcibly pointed out. The lecturer advised his hearers to carry all the toads they find into the garden, as they devour immense quantities of insects. A toad will swallow the largest specimen of a tomato worm, although sometimes he will have a hard time of it.

TRANSFORMATIONS OF INSECTS.—It is commonly and correctly said that there are four stages in the life of every insect: 1st, the egg; 2nd, the larva; 3rd, the pupa, and 4th, the perfect or imago state. In most insects the dividing line between these stages is well marked, the larva and imago being active locomotive creatures, capable both of eating and discharging feces; and the pupa lying still all the time and neither eating nor discharging feces. But in certain great groups, for instance the true Bugs and the Grasshoppers, the pupa is as active and locomotive and ravenous as either the larva or the imago, and sometimes cannot be readily distinguished by the inexperienced either from the former or the latter.—*Am. Entomologist*.

ENTOMOLOGICAL ANNUAL FOR 1868.—It is proposed, should sufficient encouragement be given, to publish a Year Book of Progress in American Entomology, to be edited by Dr. A. S. Packard, Jr. Dr. J. L. Le Conte will contribute a chapter on the *Coleoptera*; Mr. S. H. Scudder, chapters on the Butterflies and *Orthoptera*; Baron R. Osten Sacken, a chapter on the *Diptera*; Mr. P. R. Uhler, a chapter on the *Hemiptera* and *Neuroptera*, and the Editor expects to receive aid from other entomologists. It is hoped it will prove a useful hand-book to every one interested in the study of insects. It will be published in 12mo size in the spring of 1869. An edition of five hundred will be printed, provided three hundred names can be secured. Will all entomologists desirous of aiding in the publication of such an annual send in their subscriptions in advance, that the means of publishing such a useful book may be afforded at the outset? Subscriptions, seventy-five cents a copy, received by W. S. West, Peabody Academy of Science, Salem, Mass.

Correspondence.

Emigration, and Hints to Emigrants.

To the Editor.

Many are deterred from emigration to Canada by the ridiculous ideas of our wooden country that have been so generally in vogue in Great Britain. Tales of our biting winters, our endless droughts, and interminable and impenetrable forests, are constantly going the rounds of English periodicals, and are eagerly drunk in by a multitude who delight in perusing the black side of the picture, rather than in sifting the probabilities and applying themselves to the work of ascertaining the true state of affairs, or discarding the exaggerations of the traveller, who, by adding fresh horrors to his tale, hopes to increase his prestige as a *voyageur*. We constantly see articles and correspondence in the public journals advocating immigration, and decrying the action of the respective Governments for their dilatory legislation on this subject. Such statements unfortunately stand upon good foundations; but let us remember that the Legislature is but a cumbrous machine, oiled and run by many engineers, each of whom brings different ideas to bear upon the improvement of the power. There is a way in which we may individually do a great deal to further the cause of immigration. Many, doubtless, of your readers, come from parts of the old world in which, even after a long absence they are well remembered and respected. If such would make a special point of writing to their old homes, publishing such correspondence in the local newspapers, and set down in plain terms the advantages held out by Canada to the emigrant—the exact state of affairs here—and controvert the exaggerated yarns of those whose only object in writing has been to appear great travellers, they would do much to further the cause of immigration, and to help the Government in any steps they might take in the same direction. Depend upon it, the ungarbled accounts of the actual settler, known personally to many of those whom he addresses, and with the evidence of his own prosperity to back his statements, would do more to turn hitherward the tide of emigration than the most elaborate policy of the wisest Government. The course suggested would be mutually advantageous to the struggling classes in the old country and to ourselves. The cry is constantly coming up for more hands, and a better regulation of wages. Every immigrant strengthens the hands of the farmer, regulates the tariff of wages, and is, in the words of a great American statesman, "worth five hundred dollars to the country." Allow me, through your columns, to make a few remarks on this important subject, and briefly to notice several classes of emigrants, throwing out a few hints for their guidance in this country.