

have not been slow to avail themselves of this opportunity, and an unexpectedly large number of hitherto unknown species have been brought from that region, especially from Arizona. Skilled field coleopterists have been over the lines of all other transcontinental railroads constructed since 1874, including the Canadian Pacific Railroad (opened in 1886), and over most of their branches. In short, the whole country lying west of the Rocky Mountains and east of the Sierra Nevada may be said now to be explored as well as can be expected by entomological travellers or expeditions. This exploration is necessarily more or less superficial, a mere skimming of the surface. What is needed for the region mentioned is the presence of a number of active *resident* specialists; for even the most expert collector is unable during a few weeks' excursion to thoroughly explore even a very small area. He cannot acquire that local knowledge which is necessary to a thorough investigation; he has but little chance for making biological observations, and he cannot possibly keep track of the species appearing in the different seasons of the year. What can be accomplished by the work of resident specialists has been shown of recent years in California, and, thanks to their labours, the fauna of that State is now as thoroughly known as that of Pennsylvania or Virginia.

There is something else needed for the West, viz., a *speedy* exploration wherever possible of those sections where the native flora and fauna are still intact from the inroads of civilization. Faunas and floras of small islands have within the memory of a single generation undergone great changes; native species have disappeared and cosmopolitan species have taken their place. The island of St. Helena is a familiar and often quoted example of this influence of human cultivation, and not long ago one of our botanists complained of the inevitable extermination in the near future of some of the plants peculiar to one of the most interesting faunal regions of the West, viz., the islands off the coast of California. This influence of man not only produces changes on islands of smaller or larger extent, but also affects, though in a much slower way, larger faunal regions. In 1891 I had, in the company of Mr. H. G. Hubbard, an opportunity to visit the more readily accessible parts of the Wasatch Mountains of Utah, and a few days' exploration convinced me that the aboriginal fauna of that range must have been quite different from what we found. This range, once covered with a magnificent coniferous forest, has now been more or less completely denuded in consequence of