

my hand, made a careful examination of it by the aid of a small pocket microscope of twenty diameters. On the superior and inferior aspects of the abdomen, between the second and third semites, were observed two deep wounds which met each other in the interior, the mandibles having penetrated completely.

Several instances of the kind occurred. It cannot be assumed that these wounds were purely accidental. It might be possible that accidents of the kind would occur once in a long time through inexperience, but to argue that insects so habituated to such manipulations as the neuters assuredly are, would be likely to make such mistakes, when it is known—especially in the case of larvae, whose integuments and tissues are so delicate and yielding by reason of early age, that the greatest caution is necessary, is, in the estimation of the writer, perfectly preposterous. Admitting, for the sake of argument, an occasional occurrence of the kind, a successive repetition of it could hardly be justified. But on the ground that a purpose is thereby subserved, there is no doubt the object had in view is justified by the means employed for its accomplishment.

What this purpose is the writer will endeavor to show in a few carefully drawn opinions. It is a well established fact, as an abundance of well authenticated instances could be cited by the writer confirmatory thereof, that many animals of many families and orders, both in the domesticated and undomesticated conditions, are wont to destroy their disabled and wounded comrades. In wild animals, in many cases, the destruction seems to be warranted in order to preserve the herd or pack from the close pursuit of enemies. Mr. Charles Darwin, in his work entitled "Origin of Species," if I mistake not the work, remarks that "Instinct or reason may suggest the expelling an injured companion, lest "beasts of prey, including man, should be tempted to follow the troop."

In tame animals, of which some well authenticated examples are recorded in the case of the hog, cow, &c., the habit is undoubtedly one which affords a beautiful and forcible illustration of what is known as the "survival of instincts."

Audubon, in writing of the Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), which is found in great abundance in the far West, observes substantially that the old males in their marches often destroy the young by picking the head, but do not venture to disturb the full-grown and vigorous. The feeble and immature being an encumbrance to the party, it is obvious that their destruction would tend to the latter's preservation. Should