

CATALOGUE OF THE LEPIDOPTERA OF AMERICA NORTH OF MEXICO.

Part I—Diurnals ; by W. H. Edwards.

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This work of Mr. Edwards' is conservative in its character, and as such is most refreshing ; after having tried in vain to fathom the innovations with which we have for the past few years been perplexed, this excellent catalogue comes to our rescue, and will, we feel sure, be appreciated by all who do not believe in the excessive multiplication of genera and their establishment on minute and often variable characters. Here the dear old familiar names are nearly all in their places again, and we go back to the time-honored method of heading our collections with *Papilio*, and embracing in it some 22 species. For ourselves, we have for some time past been literally at sea in reference to names for butterflies, wandering about without chart or compass to direct us ; we scarcely knew the name of any species, and didn't expect ever to have the time or disposition to master the new names proposed, and hence we have been so discouraged that we have done really nothing to our collection of butterflies for a long time past. We are not disposed to object to changes in nomenclature where it can be made to appear that a *necessity* for such modifications exists, but we have been unable to see any good reason for adopting the wholesale changes which have been proposed, and we believe that the great bulk of working Entomologists hold the same view. With a catalogue now more to our mind, sufficiently progressive, and, at the same time, a most convenient help, we shall be able to classify our species under genera we can comprehend, and go to work with a will again.

In the general arrangement the author, while adopting and incorporating some of the work of later systematists, adheres mainly to the order of Doubleday and his associates in the "Genera of Diurnal Lepidoptera," and where the genera have numerous species, as in *Colias*, *Argynnis*, *Thecla*, *Lycaena*, *Pamphila*, &c., they are for the sake of convenience divided into sections. In crediting genera the author strictly follows the rules adopted by American Entomologists at the recent meeting in Buffalo, and appends the name of the party who first gave the genus a proper definition. For this reason Hübner's genera are excluded