

activity in America. In Boston two similar volumes exist, one of which was presented by Dr. Gray of the British Museum, to Dr. Gray the botanist of Cambridge, and by him to the Natural History Society, where it may now be seen. The other volume is a collection, perhaps the only considerable one which has never passed out of this country, which was purchased by the Society from Dr. Oemler, of Georgia, who inherited it from his father.*

In the title page of the last volume of the British Museum series there is a miniature portrait let into the title page, which, tradition says, was painted by Abbot himself, and indeed it bears every mark of this, though there is no memorandum to this effect within the volume. With its peculiar physiognomy it adds considerably to our interest in the original; there seems to be not a little humour in the quaint features and figure, and the spare form hardly gives the figure of robust health which the face would indicate. Abbot probably returned to England about 1810, at an age of about fifty, and our portrait was doubtless painted at about this time, certainly before he left America, since it represents him in the thinnest of southern costume. There were old persons living in Georgia up to 1885, but since deceased, who knew him, but apparently none now remain.

Abbot's work was by no means on Lepidoptera alone, as any of the series of his drawings will show. Dr. Hagen, in speaking of the volume in the British Museum containing the Neuroptera, says that all the details are given with the greatest care, and that in almost all cases the species can be identified. The same is the case with most of the drawings of Lepidoptera, though there is a mark of carelessness in some of the figures of early stages which is not found in others; this is no doubt due to the fact that so many applied for these drawings, "both in Europe and America, that he found it expedient to employ one or two assistants, whose copies he retouched, and thus finished they generally pass as his own. To an experienced eye, however, the originals of the master are readily distinguished."

It would hardly appear that he paid more attention to Lepidoptera than to other insects. Yet in the Oemler collection alone there are one hundred and thirty-three plates of Lepidoptera, nearly every one of which

*Mr. Oemler and Mr. "Le Compte" are both mentioned in Abbot's notes as sending him specimens.