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DESCRIPTION OF THE PREPARATORY STAGES OF ARGE GALATHEA, LINN., WITH NOTES ON CERTAIN SATYRINÆ.

BY W. H. EDWARDS, COALBURGH, W. VA.

(Continued from page 71.)

How then can Mr. Scudder claim that this feeble relic of the tertiaries, stranded, as he tells us, on the loftiest peaks at east and west at the close of the glacial period, unchanged in all respects since that, its imago showing itself but once in two years, the individual living at most but a few days, always in tribulation and peril, saved only from extinction by its acquired habits of dropping into a crevice, or of clinging to the rocks by the feet, its wings of scarcely any use whatever, but a constant source of danger—that this miserable creature stands at the head of its genus, its sub-family, its family, of the American fauna, and in fact of the world, the ideal butterfly !*

The mere statement of the proposition that such a tribe, creepers along the ground, avoiding sun-light, allied to the moths at every stage, often with habit of moths rather than butterflies, have high rank in the order, and that the weakest member of the tribe—the one which has suffered most by isolation and privation—is the highest of all, carries its own refutation.

When a process of reasoning leads to an absurd conclusion, there is a flaw somewhere. The facts may be mistaken, or wrongly presented, and, in either case, the inferences attempted to be drawn from them may be without justification.

Mr. Scudder is compelled to allow, that in three stages out of four, the Satyrinæ are nearer the Hesperidæ and the moths than to other butter-

* We have the expression "the highest butterflies," meaning the Satyrinæ, repeated endlessly, sometimes twice on one page, when "Satyrinæ" would answer every purpose. It seems to me the author of the work, appealing to the reason of his readers, makes a mistake in thrusting his opinions before them so persistently. If the arguments fail to convince, what he calls by one name, will be thought to deserve quite another.