

in time the last goal will be reached. In localities where the population is becoming dense, and all land available placed under cultivation, many fine species that once were common are now rarities and others fast becoming so. It is less than half a century since Mr. Randall described eighty-four species from localities in Maine and Massachusetts, most of them common; but, according to Mr. Austin, in the same places several of these species are now extinct and many of them have become rare. The Coleopterist of Cincinnati, or of Buffalo, of a couple of hundred years hence, who shall be fortunate enough to possess one of Mr. Dury's, or Mr. Reinecke's lists of local Coleoptera, will no doubt have occasion to mourn over the absence from his Fauna of many of the choice forms there registered. And, by the way, the value of local catalogues would be greatly enhanced by indicating the comparative abundance of the individuals and other matters, as is done by Mr. Schwartz in his "List of Species Collected in Florida."

The foregoing is preliminary to a consideration of the probable future of several species of *Pterostichus* of wide distribution occurring here, as deduced from their respective habits of life and powers of adaptation. The references are to this locality only.

1. *P. adoxus* Say occurs commonly eastwardly of the Mississippi and northwardly from Tennessee and Carolina. Here it is moderately abundant, being usually found under the bark of fallen timber, or under chips and stones in its vicinity. The larvæ probably live about decaying wood. This species is not likely to become entirely extinct.

2. *P. rostratus* Newm. has the same range as *adoxus*, extending further south. It is much less abundant. It seems to have similar habits. Here it is about extinct, only three specimens having been taken in ten years; but fifty miles south-east, along the base of the Allegheny Mountains, it is not uncommon.

3. *P. diligendus* Chand. occurs from Virginia to Canada, eastward of the Mississippi. It is very abundant here, and, from its habits, will likely survive. It is found in many of the ravines on hill sides formed by springs, following them to their origin, and when found on low ground it is owing to their having been brought down in freshets. It is a moisture lover and is never found in dry places. Its larvæ live in the banks of these hillside rivulets in ground that is constantly damp.

4. *P. honestus* Say is not often found here, and then either under the bark of fallen timber in wet places, where it probably feeds on small