

## CORRESPONDENCE.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., NOV., 1873.

DEAR SIR,—

Many printed pages you devote to the question of nomenclature and rights of priority of generic and specific names. Allow me a small space in your columns to say a word in no way personal, still from a different point of view, yet with deference to the contending opinions.

In the first place I would claim a general acknowledgement for such compilers of entomological material as have in an exhaustive way at their time—so far as exhaustion is possible—published the results of their researches, and which compilations form entireties of certain large groups of insects. I will refer to only a few, among them Burmeister, for his *Rhynchosa* and *Gymnognatha*; Gyllenhal, for his North European Coleoptera; Harold and Gemminger's Munich Catalogue of the World's Coleoptera; also, Ochsenheimer and Freitschke's work on Lepidoptera of Europe, this latter one so complete with Geometridæ and Micros.

All these compilers have worked with the full understanding of the value of generic names come down to them from earlier authorities, have been guided by the wish of letting Linne's and other great author's earliest names stand for the typical genus, giving room at the same time where, by newer discoveries, new genera had necessarily been created, for their interpolation. The great completeness of these published compilations, based upon conscientious researches, is what has created, if not all over the world, at least in Europe, the use and endearment of certain generic names that in my opinion might be everywhere respected, and will, I hope, everywhere and for ever be adopted. I see no necessity of going further back than the authority of such great compilers, even if a few errors of judgment, as likely, have occurred.

To restrict my observations to Lepidoptera only, I will here especially refer to Ochsenheimer and Freitschke's work of wonderful completeness; it treats of European Lepidoptera only. The European Fauna has its representatives all the world over, and it is around and between European genera that the world's new species have to be ranged, whether or not the formation of new genera becomes necessary. Such ground work or basis for a complete series of classes and genera as O. & F. have compiled might, in my opinion, be followed up and their generic names without omission be adhered to. Addressing American Entomologists, I would