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TIGER BEETLES.

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There are probably over ninety thousand different species of Beetles in the world, and first and foremost of this mighty legion stand the Cicindelidæ. Well, therefore, might they demand our attention from their high position in the Coleopterous world alone; but they have many other claims on our consideration. They are cosmopolitan—no pent-up Ithaca contracts their powers; they are beautiful; they are fierce; they are blood-thirsty; they are useful; and the family name is an old one—known to scientists and men of letters in the days when Jupiter and Juno were king and queen of heaven, to the inhabitants of old Rome.

The family is divided into several branches; in Canada we have only the representatives of one branch, but it is the original one, the Cicindelæ. In the United States there are a couple of other branches as well, which reside principally far to the west.

There is much in a name. The patronymics Smith, Barber, Wright, tell the origin of the family at once; so *Cicindela* informs us that those that are so called are "bright and shining ones," while the English cognomen of Tiger Beetle lets all Anglo Saxons know that it is a creature that lives by preying on the blood of others. Brilliant, beautiful and elegant in shape are these beetles, and they appear to revel in the merry, merry sunshine; on every bright summer day they are to be found running and flying about sunny banks, sandy places and wherever the god of day beats down his life-giving rays; most of them avoid vegetation, as it would check their rapid progress; some species, however, linger in grassy spots among scattered trees. They are among the most predaceous of the Coleoptera; "they act like the tigers among Mammalia, the hawks among Birds, the crocodiles among Reptiles, or the sharks among Fishes." In some of them activity, as well as brilliancy of coloring, is