

## AN EARLY REFERENCE TO THE OCCURRENCE OF THE ARMY WORM IN PENNSYLVANIA, NEW YORK AND CANADA.

BY F. M. WEBSTER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

The year 1743 seems to have been the first of which we have what is generally accepted as undoubtable evidence of the occurrence of this pest in the United States in destructive numbers. This information has always been based solely upon a statement made by Chas. L. Flint in a report on the Climatology of New England,\* and is as follows: In 1743 there were "millions of devouring worms in armies, threatening to cut off every green thing. Hay very scarce, £7 and £8 a load."

There, however, is another bit of evidence of this outbreak of the Army worm in the year 1743 that appears to have been entirely overlooked. This is contained in a small but somewhat rare volume, by John Bartram, printed in London, England, in 1751.†

Mr. Bartram, as he states, "set out from his house on Skuylkil River the 3rd day of July, 1743." Under date of July 16th, near the Indian town of Tohicon, situated between the east branch of the Susquehanna and the main river, he says: "Here I observed for the first time in this journey that the worms which had done much mischief in the several parts of our Province by destroying the grass and even corn for two summers, had done the same thing here, and had eaten off the blades of their maize and long white grass, so that the stems of both stood naked four-foot high; I saw some of the naked dark-coloured grubs half an inch long, the most of them were gone, yet I could perceive they were the same that had visited us two months before; they clear all the grass in their way in any meadow they get into, and seem to be periodical as the locusts and caterpillar, the latter of which I am afraid will do us a great deal of mischief next summer."

Under date of 28th of the same month, having reached Oswego, New York, Mr. Bartram makes this entry in his record: "This was a rainy, thundering warm day, and two deputies arrived from the Oneidas. News came that the worms had destroyed abundance of corn and grass in Canada."

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\*Second Annual Report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, 1854 (printed in 1855), p. 36.

†Observations on the Inhabitants, Climate, Soil, Rivers, Productions, Animals, and other matters worthy of notice. Made by Mr. John Bartram in his travels from Pennsylvania to Onon-tago, Oswego and the Lake Ontario, in Canada, to which is annexed a curious account of the Cataracts at Niagara. By Mr. Peter Kalm, a Swedish gentleman who travelled there. London: Printed for J. Whiston and B. White, in Fleet Street, 1751.