

think be accounted for by some local peculiarity of the soil or weather.

The insects found by Mr. Shaver doubtless remained quiescent in their earthy bed somewhat later than usual, in consequence of the long continued drought, and the comparatively cool weather, till, on the rain moistening the ground, they suddenly came up to the surface in such large numbers as to be conspicuously visible. Mr. Shaver first observed them while examining the progress of his field of Indian Corn.

Where the Secretary of the Board appears to have been in error, however, in his letter addressed to the newspapers, was in the time allowed for the insect to get into the winged state, after being seen on the ground in an active larva state. We had formed the impression that the larvæ in spring or early summer would be found in the pupa or chrysalis state, but they appear to come up to the surface as active maggots, and in a very few days afterwards, probably about a week, to be transformed into perfect winged flies, when, or very soon afterwards they commence their operations upon the growing grains.

An esteemed correspondent from the neighbourhood of Cobourg, informs us that he has frequently in the beginning of summer, after a rainy day, found the larvæ of the wheat fly in countless numbers on the surface of his fields where there had been wheat the previous year, and that on placing some of them in a glass they would become flies in about a week. Mr. Shaver, a week after he had brought in the specimens already mentioned, writes that—"The larvæ have nearly all disappeared. There are a few still remaining, but very few. I collected a few the day after I saw you and put them in a glass, but the earth got so dry they could not live. There are a few still in the ground, very near the surface. With another shower of rain they would come through. For two or three days back there are numbers of the midge flying through the wheat, but is too soon to detect the amount of injury done."

We have given some attention to this subject, not because there are any new facts disclosed, but because observations made under peculiar circumstances of season, &c., brought them into prominent notice. It is important that farmers

should become thoroughly conversant with the habits of an insect which is capable of doing such enormous damage to our most important field crop, for they will thereby be better enabled to guard against its ravages.

A writer in this journal two or three years ago suggested that where the wheat midge has infested a crop, the field should be deeply ploughed in autumn, covering up the surface entirely out of sight, and that it should be left in that condition, without ploughing again, for an entire year, that thereby the larvæ should be smothered and never able to reach the surface again. Were it possible to induce every farmer in a section of the country to adopt such a plan perhaps the evil might be to a great extent removed. It is not probable that the insect would be able to rise to the surface through any great depth of soil. The suggestion may be worthy of consideration by those who are most deeply interested. Due attention, however, to well recognized remedies may secure partial exemption. Take care to destroy such of the larvæ as come into the barn, and are blown out with the chaff on cleaning the wheat. Sow fall wheat early and of an early ripening kind, on well drained and well prepared soil, so that it may escape winter killing and come into ear early enough in spring to escape damage. For spring wheat choose an early ripening kind and sow late, so that it may come into ear after the fly has disappeared.

This year, another insect pest threatens to infest the wheat crop in this part of the country but fortunately, in this case, although the creature is from its numbers of sufficiently formidable appearance, we believe it is not likely to inflict any very serious injury. Mr. Shaver already mentioned in this article, has brought us in several ears of wheat in which are found a pretty large number of the grain aphid. Notice of this parasite was given in the *Agriculturist* of August 16th, last year. It appeared in the eastern part of Upper Canada last year in such large numbers in some cases as to give the ears of wheat a brownish appearance, but did not seem to injure the crop much. The aphides are found in the crevices between different lobes of the wheat ear. They are first a dark brown to a grass green in color, and