

quence of their long imprisonment, basking in the warmth of the sun to dry their bodies and to give color and tone to their systems, preparatory to entering upon the duties of the *formicarium*.

The full-grown neuters were the very pictures of restlessness. Consternation was evidently written upon their looks, if I may be permitted so to speak, and clearly evidenced in their hasty and dubious movements. The ova, larvae and pupae were being carried away to places of security beneath the ground, or hustled away to the neighboring grasses, in short, wherever their nurses could find safe and comfortable quarters for them.

Looking around me to find the cause of all this turmoil, my eyes soon rested upon two or three individuals of *Formica subterranea*, Lat. which had intruded their unbidden presence into this peaceful and hitherto happy family. There is no doubt that these ruthless invaders of this flourishing oasis of ant-life, were bent upon plunder or slaughter.

If pillage was their motive, these giants no doubt soon learned that if their weaker, more distant kin were unable to cope with them in strength, they could assuredly make up for its loss in stratagem, sagacity and numbers.

Not daring to attack their more powerful neighbors, after having sheltered the more tender, and being unable to defend their comrades who had just attained perfection and who were necessarily impotent, or to carry them to places of safety in view of their weight, in order to defeat the plans of the foe they set to work and destroyed those upon which but a few days before they had lavished the most endearing attentions.

While the major part of the workers were engaged in looking after the wants of the immature, and manifesting a readiness to provide for their further safety, should necessity demand it, a few were observed running about seizing in their mandibles the newly developed, not to bear them beyond the reach of danger, as was at first supposed, but to save them a life of servitude mayhap, at any rate to keep them from falling a living prey to the rapacity of the enemy.

Knowing by experience the sympathy and affection which the nurses ever bear towards these frail and tender objects of their care, this act of inhumanity, so to speak, struck me as peculiarly novel and astonishing. Prompted by curiosity to know the nature of the wounds inflicted, I raised a still struggling being up, and having placed it upon the palm of