

SOME OF THE INSECTS THAT FREQUENT THE
ORCHARD AND GARDEN.

Shall we wage indiscriminate war against insects ?

"The noxious insect that intrudes may die." This is the judgment of the poet Cowper, and it appears to be a reasonable one ; but we must not suppose that every insect is noxious, nor must we regard every appearance of an insect as an intrusion. It is well for the Fruit-grower and the Horticulturist to acquire a knowledge of Entomology, that they may be able to destroy *judiciously*. An indiscriminate slaughter of insects is an offence against Nature, "who, when she formed, designed them an abode."

Consider the case of the caterpillar of the Willow-herb Sphinx (*Deilephila Chamenerii*):—

In neglected spots and corners the Willow-herb (*Epilobium angustifolium*) is wont to spring up. Feeding on this plant certain caterpillars of a formidable appearance, of a green or madder-brown hue, having two rows of orange spots down the back, and an anal horn, may often be met with. They grow to a considerable size. The ordinary gardener finding them would certainly kill them. But they are perfectly innocent. Their food-plant is of no value. The moth which they ultimately produce is very beautiful ; and, being one of the nectar-sipping insects, plays a useful part in the economy of nature by scattering pollen to aid in the fertilization of plants. A person killing the insect is not merely guilty of an act of unnecessary cruelty : he is destroying a friend.