

these investigations, among the first being that of the seasonal trimorphism of *Papilio ajax* and the dimorphism of *Grapta interrogationis* and of *Grapta comma*. The process of breeding was soon taken up by Mr. Edwards's friends and correspondents scattered over North America, and, aided by the general extension of railways over the continent, he was able to get eggs of butterflies from widely distant localities and to follow them successfully through all their stages. It is due to his efforts that the reproach of ignorance of the preparatory states of our butterflies has largely been removed, and though much even now remains to be learnt, vast progress has been made. The first part of the third series was issued in December, 1886; the eighteenth and last in 1897. Far from showing any decline from the author's high standard of excellence, the last issues were regarded at the time as the climax of good work, both on the part of the writer and the artist. In his third volume nearly half of the fifty-one plates are devoted to the alpine or subarctic species of the Satyrinæ, and every species of North American Chionobas, except the Labrador *Taygete*, is figured; of twelve species the various life-stages are fully described and portrayed with a wealth of detail of larval characteristics. As the author states in the preface, "Until these plates appeared no *Erebia* and no Chionobas, except *Semidea*, either in Europe or America, was known in its preparatory stages." All through Mr. Edwards was fortunate in having his wishes ably carried out by his artist-assistants, one of whom, Mrs. Mary Peart, not only drew most accurately nearly all the plates, but in order to do so satisfactorily, reared a large number of the caterpillars; the exquisite colouring by Mrs. Lydia Bowen could not be surpassed. The three large volumes make up a work on the life-histories of butterflies which has no equal anywhere. The accuracy and beauty of the plates are all that can be desired and the pages are filled with original descriptions and observations of many of our rarest butterflies, as well as particulars previously unknown of a large number of more familiar species. It will long continue to be an authoritative book of reference and to form the foundation of all further studies of these most interesting and lovely creatures.

Mr. Edwards was seventy-five years old when he gave up his studies of butterflies, feeling, no doubt, that his advanced age precluded him from carrying on further investigations with the ability and success that he had so remarkably displayed. Far from being idle, however, he became a spirited combatant in the Shakespearean controversy, and in 1900 published