

## ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE MONTREAL BRANCH OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.

GENTLEMEN,—Members of a young Society, especially those who are verily sincere, when they learn that their institution is progressing indeed, become imbued with a sense of pleasure, and I am gratified to state that the Entomologists (the majority of whom are young beginners) who meet in this city have made a worthy advancement in their investigations during the last year. At its inception, I had a doubt with regard to the attention which persons joining us would give to the study of our local insects, but such a thought has been dispelled from my mind. During the past twelve months ten papers were read, the greater portion of which, being the production of tyros in the science, exhibit, at least, an energy on their part to promote Entomology to the position for which this Branch Society was instituted. Affiliated with the Entomological Society of Ontario, whose headquarters are at London, Ontario, we receive the same benefits of membership, &c., as our western brethren composing the parent body. Our by-laws are suitably framed to meet the general work of the Branch, and the only future requisite will be a mere effort to prevent our Financial Secretary from grumbling. By so doing, and with punctual attendance, we will be enabled to continue our regular monthly meetings, and have greater pleasure when we meet mutually together in the pursuit of our favourite study. Bear in mind, however, that during the next year our cabinet must be attended to—it will be necessary that it should contain at least the nucleus of a general local collection, presenting a fair number of specimens of the several Orders of Insects. I maintain that if we possess a good classified collection of native insects it would be a great inducement for young beginners to join us. Books on Entomology are generally expensive, and only a few can be consulted studiously in regard to the noxious and beneficial insects of this country. Valuable Entomological literature issues annually from the pens of co-labourers in the United States; the greater portion of these are in the form of State Agricultural Reports, which seldom come to our hands. Our branch is simply in the chrysalis state, and in consequence of the metamorphoses not being complete, we are unable at present to produce some tangible matter in exchange; but I trust the day is not distant when some of our young beginners will be proud of their productions—as worthy of being read by the old heads in the science. However, I have thought that, from time to time, duplicate papers on Entomology may be received by the Parent Society in exchange for THE CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST. These extra papers could be perused, and doubtless be of service to members of our branch, and the parent might, if it possesses such material, liberally share them between the three branches of its Society.

The Report of the Council informs you of the labour, &c., performed by members during the year. Possibly these labours will stand a fair criticism as emanating from a Society only in its second year, and the actual working members but young beginners. Old students should always bear leniently towards the tyro, especially when the latter seems anxious for information. He must be encouraged in this way. The low temperature which we experience in this latitude, during the greater portion of the year, may produce a kind of carelessness or lethargy in the young student of Entomology. This he should endeavour to avoid, and he can do so by devoting his leisure winter hours to the arrangement of his cabinet—that is to say, in reading, naming and classifying his specimens. He who admires the beauty and appreciates the value of Entomology will, with the return of lovely spring, refreshen his faculties as the objects of his research appear again before him.

We require more knowledge in connection with the distribution of insects, especially in regard to the Lepidoptera of Europe; I mean such species as are recorded as occurring in this portion of North America. Butterflies which are found distributed at this day throughout a great extent of this country, are recorded by the best of naturalists as having followed man from the Old World. Such species should be fully defined in order to prevent additional synonyma. "There is so great a similarity between our insect fauna and that of Southern Europe, that a knowledge of their species is often of great advantage in determining our own." The late Professor Agassiz states in his work on Lake Superior, that *Vanessa Antiopa*, "The Camberwell Beauty" of England, is one of these. That a few of the Diurnals are common to both continents I have no doubt, but in which of them did the species obtain their origin, or what is now termed their metropolis? My respected and talented friend Scudder, of Boston, in a late memoir on the genus *Pamphila*, says in his comments on *P. Manitoba*—a new but

wide-spread species extreme poverty in the assumption that the fauna of America is its proper one of Europe, and *P. Manitoba* forms and markings ences in these two was introduced into had perhaps to feed in my opinion, in the form, we must considered species. to trace the true form of the country, have fore he has greater two butterflies and number of specimens terfly, *Vanessa Antiopa*. The colour temperate America through since its introduction of Europe, slightly influences, that the ences in wide-spread and *P. Manitoba* of gradually, and although the enemy. This species which is southward these days there at cease to wonder well known.

It is a notorious horticulturists can found in our woodlands perhaps on the wild tacked the domestic twelve years ago fired currant through onion-fly (*Orthocentrus*) the crop generally, terrible pest to the an alarming number Atlantic. Another neighbourhood of this city be asked, did these If *Antiopa* followed which it feeds are carrying noxious portion of TWO HUNDRED which have run wild acclimatization and insects have been, appears that those common there. Taken from the pen of C. cause as follows:—plants and insects with which the plant