

WHOM SHALL WE FOLLOW?

BY RICHARD F. PEARSALL, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

The recently-published article from the pen of Rev. Geo. W. Taylor, giving a rearrangement of the species now included under the genus *Venusia*, Curtis, under the same caption used by me in a previous paper, gives me, I think, a right to protest. He refuses to accept the separation of *12-lineata*, Pack.? under a new genus, as given by me; but if the two male specimens, which were sent through the kindness of Mr. Geo. Franck, reached him safely, I think he will be satisfied on this point. *12-lineata*, Pack., was described from specimens taken in California by Mr. Hy. Edwards, and eastern specimens credited with this name were really the species I described as *Euchæa salienta*. I grouped with this latter the western species mentioned by Mr. Taylor, not having at hand enough material upon which to base a separation, yet as more of it comes to me, I am tending toward the conclusion that it is worthy of a specific name, but this can wait. Now, as to *perlineata*, Pack., if the plate published of it (Boston Soc. of Nat. Hist., Vol. 16) is to be relied upon (I have not seen the type), then it is clearly the species we have been calling *comptaria*, Walk., as determined by Dr. Hulst. But *comptaria* is not *comptaria* any longer, according to Mr. Prout, and so, vide Mr. Taylor, it becomes *perlineata*, Pack., and my *salienta* becomes *comptaria*, Walk. It is, then, a question of whose authority we shall accept, that of Dr. Hulst or Mr. Prout. Until some one well drilled in the various American geometrid forms, carrying abundant material with him, shall go to Europe, and compare the types there with it, Mr. Taylor, for instance, I am not ready to change the decisions arrived at by Dr. Hulst. He had studied this group many years before he journeyed across twice, carrying material with him, for the sole purpose of establishing the types, and his decisions are entitled to stand, unless they go down before the weightiest authority. He may have made mistakes in determinations, and *did*, in naming off hand, later on in his life, but I claim that having an object clearly before him, the sole performance of which took him abroad, he would be less likely to fall into error, knowing also that his was pioneer work, and so much depended upon its correctness as a basis for the future worker. I can show to Mr. Prout specimens of *E. comptaria*, Walk., from this region (Catskill Mts.) which almost anyone would call *E. lucata*, yet in all the fifteen years of my collecting here I have never taken the latter species. I make this statement, not to discredit Mr. Prout's judgment, but to point out how easily one may be misled unless thoroughly familiar with the range in variation in each species, and the appearance which such variations present when rubbed, suffused or melanistic. This year I have