

original observation on these wonderful creatures, as portrayed in his work, I do not now recall it. He has interested himself in their love affairs, and, though not officiating, has been present at their weddings; has gone into the home of Madam Spider and told everything he saw there,—how she cares for her young with a tenderness that is almost human, and treats her poor husband in a manner decidedly the reverse; how they secure their food and protect themselves and their young from their enemies;—in short, he has gone into every phase of spider life and given us a simple record of all that he saw, at the same time not forgetting to call attention to the works of others, and give strict credit for all that they have done, a sure indication of honesty and sincerity of purpose. That the work is, to an extent, imperfect, and, perhaps, defective, the author does not hesitate to admit, but there is everywhere shown a commendable desire to reduce these defects to a minimum, and few could have done as well. Had the author chosen to consult his personal comfort and financial interests, he would never have undertaken the task, which, from first to last, was of necessity a labour of love, the financial loss being only compensated for by the thanks of his fellow-workers, and the knowledge that, with his pen and pencil, he has done more than have any others of his countrymen, to further our knowledge of this most interesting group of organisms.

The first volume treats particularly of snares and nests; the second volume considers the cocooning industry, maternal instincts and general habits; the third volume contains six chapters of natural history descriptions, while the remaining and major portion is devoted to descriptions of the Orb-weaving fauna of the United States. The work contains over 1,200 pages, illustrated by 853 uncoloured figures, drawn from life, and many of them being full-page illustrations; 40 lithographic plates, on which are engraved 913 figures, coloured by hand from nature, and a full page engraving of Prof. Hentz, the father of American Araneology.

The work should find its way into every public and educational library, and especially the latter, while the individual who possesses himself of a copy will treasure it carefully and part with it only of necessity.

F. M. W.