

ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the Entomological Club:

For the honour which you were pleased to confer upon me, at your last meeting, when I was unable to be with you, in calling me to preside over you, I am fully appreciative, and would return my grateful acknowledgments. While I well know that there are several among you who far better deserved the honour of succeeding to the chair vacated by my illustrious predecessor, yet I would interpret your selection as a tribute to my devotion to our loved science, and to my earnest desire to aid in its progress to the extent of my humble ability.

On these annual gatherings, marking the lapse of a period signalized by progress equalling, even surpassing that of a decade but a few years ago, it would seem fitting and proper that a comprehensive view of that progress should be given. But this has been so ably done by one of our number, and you have had it presented in the pages of *Psyche*, that whatever I might say in this direction, would be but repetition.

Permit me then, instead, to refer to some evidence of progress in American Entomology, shown within the recollection of several of us here present. Going back forty years, very little was known of our abundant insect fauna, except of the Coleoptera, an order which enjoyed the good fortune of being an attractive one, easy to collect in and prepare for the cabinet, and which early enlisted in its study earnest students, who have since lent honoured names to the annals of American science. Thus, in 1835, in Harris' List of the Insects of Massachusetts, the names of 994 Coleoptera are given, and but 140 Lepidoptera. Of the latter, 34 are butterflies, four of which are erroneously referred to European species: among these only three species of Hesperidæ are mentioned. Seventeen species of Noctuidæ are recorded, with the additional note of "96 unnamed species." There are also the names of 7 Geometers, 1 Pyralid, 1 Tortrix and 6 Tineids. How great an advance upon this in our knowledge of forms is shown in the Crotch Check List of 7,450 species of Coleoptera, in the Grote Check List of 1,132 species of Noctuids (already quite incomplete from the species subsequently made known), and in the Edwards' Catalogue of 506 species of Butterflies (110 of which are Hesperidæ). I often recall, as I am reminded of past progress, a request of Dr. Fitch, soon after the commencement of his Reports, for my careful attention to the Catalogues, for the authorities of the British Museum were, he thought unnecessarily, multiplying species. He did not believe that we really had over a half dozen species. To-day we number over 90 accepted species.

At the time to which I have referred, very few—perhaps not over a score (my limited knowledge of the Coleoptera must be my excuse if I err)—of the histories of our insects were known; now, we may count by the hundred those of which we know the transformations and the life histories more or less complete. Some of these, thanks to the labours of Edwards, Riley, Scudder, Walsh, and others, have been charmingly wrought out, and are honourable contributions to science.

The list of working Entomologists is rapidly enlarging, and with the consequent diffusion of a knowledge of their purposes and their results, we have reason to believe that the day is not far distant when the opprobrious prefix of "crazy" will not invariably be associated with "bug-hunter." In the last edition of the Naturalists' Directory, the names of 281 persons are recorded who are making Entomology their study in North America. It is probable that a full list would be increased by at least 25 per cent. extending the number to 350.

With so large a number of working Entomologists, we would be justified in expecting larger annual contributions to our literature. It would seem to me but a moderate estimate that one-third of the number should possess the ability of making such careful observations and of collating them in such a form that they would prove acceptable and valuable contributions to our knowledge. While we know so little of the transformations of our species, the habits of their larvæ, and imagines, their geographical distribution—in short, the numerous details entering into and composing their life histories, there is scarcely a new fact relating to these particulars which is not worthy of being placed on record in the pages of our Entomological journals, which will gladly give them place. It has been stated that there are but about thirty Entomologists in the United States and

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The literature on our shelves form Entomological Soci volumes of the Ca numerous papers sc Science, Proceeding Natural History o Science, Bulletin of Academy of Natura mological study is b exquisite illustration being fully equal to have given him high mology, while the Uhler, represent no ing ourselves. Nor de Saussure, Speyer, valued aid in the de tion of problems wh fauna of the eastern

The most gratif sent to you, is the logical explorations cation of their results to you his sorrow, di the memorials presen applied Entomology tion that the Depart training in the school fied him for the respo assurance that the Se

In conformity wi has honoured itself w of the country throug the extent of enormo special Commissions to be followed by oth