

beautiful appearance when flying in the bright sunshine, and evidently suggested the popular names given to them by the French and Germans.

The Dragon-fly is usually found in the vicinity of small streams or ponds, for reasons we will soon give. On bright and warm days in July and August it may be seen skimming over the surface of the water or ascending in graceful curves into the air, in search of food. When it rests, its wings are expanded horizontally.

Notwithstanding their graceful and "Demoiselle" appearance, they are most bloodthirsty creatures. Their rapid flight and enormous range of vision enable them to capture other insects with ease, while, their taste not being limited, they can consume butterflies, moths and other insects without compunction, and they are known to destroy and eat each other, as well as very small fishes (Figuier). However, it is this ravenous propensity which makes this insect so very valuable to man, as they destroy immense numbers of other insects which are injurious to vegetable and other products, and do not injure these substances themselves. A few of them shut in a house will soon rid it of flies, bugs and mosquitoes, and therefore their presence should be welcomed. The popular opinion that they are dangerous to man is without foundation, as they can neither bite, sting, or poison him.

We may now consider the development of *L. trimaculata* from the egg, as it furnishes some very curious and interesting information.

When the female is about to deposit her eggs, she attaches herself to some plant growing out of the water, and pushing her abdomen beneath the surface, glues a bunch of eggs to the submerged stem or leaf (Uhler). These eggs produce larvæ which have a distant and ugly resemblance to the perfect insect. The larva is active and passes its existence in the water, feeding on numerous weaker insects. It possesses a curious syringe like apparatus situated in the end of the body, by which it discharges a stream of water for a distance of two or three inches behind it, thereby propelling the insect forward. The motion thus given is most irregular and appears to be beyond the control of the larva. This curious arrangement serves for respiration as well as locomotion.

The larva soon reaches the pupa state (corresponding to the chrysalis state of a butterfly), in which it is also active, crawling over the bottom of the stream preying on other insects. In this state it is longer than the