

white spot in the scarlet band on fore wings. Mr. Birchall, however, says : " The white spot sometimes found on the upper surface of the scarlet band is not indicative of the female sex ; it was present in about one tenth of the specimens (he raised upwards of 100 butterflies), was produced from both forms of larvæ, and in about equal numbers of both sexes. It varies greatly in size, in some specimens being a barely discernible speck." None of my butterflies, at Coalburgh, showed this white spot, nor have I any example from any locality which shows it. I asked Mr. Lintner to examine his specimens and report on this spot. He writes : " I have but five, and one of the females has an extra white spot in the band in the second median interspace."

*Atalanta* is one of the few species of butterfly which are found the world over. In West Virginia, there are three broods of the larvæ, the first in May and early June, the second in July and early August, the third late in September, and the butterflies from the last larvæ hibernate, hiding probably in hollow trees, crevices of outhouses and barns, perhaps among rocks, ready to come forth in warm days of winter or early in the spring. I always see them about the wild plum blossoms, which are almost the earliest of the year. In two or three years of the last fifteen, it has been an easy matter to find the caterpillars in considerable numbers, but the present season, 1882, has been remarkable over all for their great abundance. I brought in, one day with another, in June, at least 150, and could have had a thousand. We have here Nettles, *urticæ*, which the books mention as the food plant of this species, but the False Nettle, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, is almost invariably selected by *Atalanta* ♀ for depositing her eggs. *Grapta Comma* feeds on the same plant in preference to nettles, and sometimes *G. Interrogationis* larvæ are found on it also. The winter of 1881-82 was exceedingly mild, and apparently the mildness was the cause of great destruction of hibernating butterfly larvae and chrysalids, in this section. Experiments show that larvae of *Argynnis* and *Satyrus* kept at a low artificial temperature through the winter months are healthy, and it is to be presumed that mild weather, which allows but semi-torpidity, and more or less activity, must be disastrous in many cases. Besides, a mild winter encourages predaceous insects, spiders, birds, etc., which destroy larvae and chrysalids. Certainly butterflies were never so scarce since I have collected, as in the season just past, and many species usually very common here were altogether wanting. In the case of hibernating imagos, a mild winter may not be unfavorable for their