

a number reared in confinement during the summer of 1864, a yellow *female* made her appearance, smaller than usual, but of as dark a colour as any that I have seen of the other sex. It may happen, therefore, that the variety may become a permanent one, and, at some future time, be regarded as a distinct species. Who knows how soon favorable circumstances may develop a new (and yellow) species of *Pieris*, to be called *novangliæ* or *canadensis*?

We cannot, however, claim this variety as the effect of a change of habitat and climate on *P. rapæ*, as (with all due deference to Mr. Stainton) it has been met with in England. Curtis, in his work on "Farm Insects," (quoted in my paper before referred to), speaks of having in his collection a male *P. rapæ* "taken near Oldham, in Lancashire, which has all the wings of a bright yellow colour." From Mr. Stainton's assurance to Mr. Scudder, however, that it was unknown in Europe, its occurrence on that continent must be extremely rare; very different from Canada, and especially the neighbourhood of Quebec, where I should say that, at a low estimate, one male *P. rapæ* out of five hundred is of a yellow colour, more or less intense. This estimate would allow for many specimens in a season, as, of all Quebec butterflies, our friend is decidedly the most abundant and prolific. I have seen them by hundreds, at one time, hovering over the fields of cabbages, to the dismay of the cultivators of this useful vegetable. It is curious that this variety should be comparatively common in America, and almost unknown in Europe. The fact would lead us to think that though it cannot have *originated* here, yet the tendency to diverge from the normal colour of the species has been increased by the transfer to this continent.

The Canadian *Pieris rapæ* (and, I expect, the New England as well), is, in common with some other species of the genus, subject to great variation in colour and intensity of markings, apart from the yellow variety under consideration. The spring brood is of a much purer white than those produced later in the season, and has the blackish markings less in size and paler in colour. I have often seen spring males without the spot on the upper side of the fore wings, and having the blotch on the apex so much obliterated, that I have supposed them, before examination, to be *P. oleracea*. The spot, however, is generally present beneath, and can be faintly seen through the wing. As the summer passes, the markings of the successive broods become more intense, until in the autumn, individuals (particularly females), are met with which have a greyish appearance, from the number of black scales sprinkled on the wings,