

As all the leaves are tender and juicy early in the season, the aphides multiply rapidly, and in about a month after the first individuals make their appearance, namely, between the 15th and 25th of June, as I find the dates entered several times in my notes taken in different years, some of the trees become literally overrun with these vermin, their black bodies covering not only the under sides of the leaves, but also the leaf-stalks, the tender succulent ends of the twigs, and sometimes the green young cherries and their stems; whilst a swarm of flies, wasps and other insects, attracted to them to feast upon their honeydew, keep up a constant buz and hum around the infested trees during warm sunny days. The leaf of the cherry, however, is of such a tough coriaceous texture that it does not become curled and corrugated like those of most trees when similarly circumstanced. Its edges merely turn backwards or become slightly rolled. The tips of the twigs, however, and the young leaves growing from them, have their juices pumped out and drained by such a multitude of tiny beaks, shrivel and die, looking as though they had been scorched by fire; and the whole tree would soon perish, it is evident, if this severe infliction was protracted. But when the aphides become thus numerous, their natural enemies and destroyers are attracted to the tree and multiplied in such numbers as to make the most astonishing havoc among this feeble race of beings. Although single trees in my grounds have been equally infested in some former years, I never knew them all to be overrun by these lice, as they were the 25th of June, the present year. It was evident, if the evil continued, the trees could live but a short time. But on examination upon that day I found two or three yellow larvæ of the *Syrphus* flies upon almost every leaf, whilst the Lady birds or *Coccinellidæ* with their larvæ and Aphidions and other destroyers, were equally numerous. All fears as to the result were consequently allayed. Still, I little anticipated such a rapid and utter extermination of these vermin as actually occurred. A week afterwards, upon a careful examination, not a living aphid could be found upon the leaves of any of the trees, and the conquerors had already disbanded their forces and had nearly all retired. The empty skins of the slain, adhering to the leaves, with the swollen bodies of others which had been punctured by parasites—for these, too, it appeared, had stepped in to give their progeny a share of the feast—were the only relics of the teeming myriads which had so

recently swarmed there. It is by looking at the works of Nature in a definite manner, and tracing out her operations specifically and in their minute details, that we arrive at some faint conceptions of their magnitude and grandeur, and become vividly impressed with the truth that no other agency than that of a Creator, infinite in wisdom and in power, could have peopled the world which we inhabit with such countless numbers and such an endless variety of objects animate and inanimate, each occupying its appropriate sphere, and all so arranged as to fulfill the objects for which they were called into existence. Has the reader, as he has passed a forest, ever attempted to conjecture the number of trees which it contained? and has his mind passed onwards to a surmise of the probable number of leaves growing upon each tree, and onwards still to the number of insects which may be drawing their sustenance from each one of these leaves, and still further, to the number of minute and infinitesimal parasites which may be subsisting upon each of these insects? Among the cherry trees alluded to above, was a row of seven young ones, which had attained a height of about ten feet. By counting the number of leaves upon some of the limbs and the number of limbs upon the tree, I find a small cherry tree of the size above stated, is clothed with about seventeen thousand leaves. And at the time alluded to, these leaves could not have averaged less than five or six hundred lice upon each, and there was fully a third more occupying the stems and the tips of the twigs. Each of these small trees was therefore stocked with at least twelve millions of these creatures. And yet so vigilant, so sharp-sighted and voracious were their enemies, that at the end of a few days the whole were exterminated.

Correspondence.

THE PUBLIC GRANT TO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

To the Editors of the Agriculturist.

March 8th, 1860.

GENTLEMEN,—I this day read in one of the city papers, that in answer to questions put to the Ministry yesterday in the House, they stated their intention of giving to the Agricultural Society this year only a sum equal to that raised by each society, in place of three for one as authorised by law, and as heretofore paid them. This