

that it pains me exceedingly to say a single word against anything that he may put forth. His projected "revision," however, is so sweeping and so revolutionary that I cannot forbear to make some remarks upon it. I know that his scientific labours are perfectly unselfish, and that he is entirely destitute of any of the conceit that I have just now referred to; I feel sure, too, that he is actuated only by the desire to benefit the science: yet I do deeply deplore the mode that he has adopted, and am convinced that if his views are pressed, a very great obstacle will be thrown in the way of the advancement and popularization of this department of Natural History. We all, I am sure, look forward with eager anticipation to the publication of his great work upon North American Butterflies, and have no doubt that it will be the most complete, the most scientific, and the most conscientious work of the kind in America; but assuredly its value will be very greatly marred and its general acceptance impaired, if he continues to insist upon all these radical changes.

To show you what these changes are, I will briefly state that in the pamphlet already published, and which is intended as a forerunner of the author's great work on the Butterflies, the following alterations are made in the received nomenclature:—The 228 species enumerated are distributed among 96 genera—almost a genus for every two species; of these 96 genera, 42 are entirely new, and 39 others are obsolete names of Hubner and others that have never been generally adopted; there are thus 15 familiar generic names left, but of these several are transferred from their present position to entirely different groups of species; for instance, the name of *Papilio* is removed from the genus of "Swallow-tailed Butterflies," and handed over to the sole use of the insect at present known as *Vanessa antiopa*! Further, among the 96 genera, there are no less than 45 that include but a single species apiece; and among the 228 species there are only 16 left with their present names unchanged! These figures are surely quite enough to show that I have not misapplied the terms "sweeping," "revolutionary," and "radical," as characterizing this work of revision. I would, then, most earnestly entreat Mr. Scudder, for the sake of the science itself, to reconsider his projected changes,—to discard all antiquated names in favour of those that have been for years in general acceptance and to reduce his list of new genera to as small a number as he conscientiously can. If he does not, if he persists in his revision, I fear that his great work—most valuable as it will undoubtedly be in all other respects—will introduce more confusion, trouble and discord into American Entomology than a generation can get rid of. If these difficulties can be avoided in no other mode, it will remain for us all to unite together and agree to ignore all old forgotten names that may be brought forward, and retain all remaining of familiar species, until a general settlement of the question can be satisfactorily arrived at.

I fear, gentlemen, that I have now completely exhausted your patience; I shall therefore hasten to a close. But before doing so, let me remind you that, since our last annual meeting, our Society has lost by death one of its most valued members, Mr. B. Billings, of Ottawa, Ont. He was one of those devoted lovers of science who do good service by their honest, hearty work, but who, from their innate modesty and retiring disposition, shrink from all publicity. At times he contributed valuable papers to our little periodical, but he could never be induced to make any display of the knowledge he had acquired by his patient diligence both at home and in the field.

Permit me now, gentlemen, to resign into your hands the office that you have done me the honour of investing me with. I thank you for your kindness and courtesy towards myself and my colleagues, and with every wish for the continued success and prosperity of your Society.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
CHARLES J. S. BETHUNE.

Trinity College School, Port Hope,
September, 1872.

THE LONDON BRANCH.

The following officers were elected for 1872:—

President.....Mr. E. B. Reed,	Secretary-Treasurer.....Mr. H. Beck,
Vice-President.....Mr. J. M. Denton,	Curator.....Mr. Joseph Williams.