Although the depredations of the insect tribes occasion loss to the agriculturist, and often sorely try his patience, we must not conclude that those tribes are productive only of ill. On the contrary, they serve many useful purposes, in the wisely ordered and beneficent system of nature. Some check the overgrowth of particular plants, that lass luxuriant ones may have a chance for existence. Others serve as seavengers, preventing the corruption that could otherwise ensue. Many furnish food to creatures which in turn become food for man. If their pursuits at any time seem to run counter to man's interests, they, even then, call into exercise qualities with

which he, as the lord of orcation, is ondowed ; and it is good for him to have those qualities furbished by the exigences of life. Nor must it be forgotten that destructive insects are agents of Him who has decreed that "man shall cat bread in the sweat of his brow." It is well for a community, when only the ordinary proceedings of these creatures have to be met or endured. There is indeed tribulation and anguish when the Lord in righteous indignation sends forth the locust, the caterpillar, and the palmer-worm, his great army to make a fruitful land barren, "for the wickedness of them that dwell therein."



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