

There are two insects familiarly known as Tent Caterpillars, from the silken webs they make upon trees. They are very similar in appearance and habits, but can always be distinguished from each other. One of them is called the Apple-tree Tent Caterpillar (*Clisiocampa Americana*, Harris), because it especially attacks apple trees. It is also very fond of the wild cherry, and will feed upon many other fruit trees. This insect is so destructive and so serious a pest that it should be fought at every stage of its existence, and the work of extermination may be begun even in the winter. When the trees are destitute of foliage, the egg-masses may be readily seen with a little practice near the end of the twigs. They are represented at *c* in the accompanying illustration, Fig. 42. By going around the orchard on a dull day in winter, when there is no sun to dazzle the eyes, the bracelet of eggs may be easily discovered, and if cut off and burnt, it will exterminate what would otherwise turn into a nest full of caterpillars in the spring.

When winter is over and the young leaves are just beginning to burst from their buds, it will be time to make another round of observation. The warmth of the spring days that has caused the buds to open and the tender leaves to expand, has also hatched the tiny eggs of this insect. The little caterpillars at first eat the gummy substance with which the egg-mass was covered for protection from wet and cold, and then they spin a fine web of white silk in a fork of the bough they are on. This forms the headquarters of the colony, and from it they make silken roads to the nearest bunch of foliage. As they grow in size, the more voracious they become, and the further they extend their rambles in search of food, until when fully grown they scatter all over the tree, or migrate to others near. The time to deal with them is evidently when they are small and collected together in their tent. Before the trees are in full leaf, the glistening white tents can be seen at once, and it will be found that the caterpillars collect together in them when the weather is inclement, and also when they are not feeding. They usually go out for their meals twice a day, in the morning and afternoon; at other times they are in their tents. Early in the morning and at night they are sure to be at home, and then is the time to destroy them. By inserting a rough stick into the middle of the web and twisting it round and round, the whole mass, caterpillars, web and all, can be brought away without difficulty, and then the worms can be crushed under foot or even between the gloved hands. If this matter is attended to early in the season, there will be no further trouble from them that year. Boys can do this work as well as anyone, and perhaps they can be taught that there is just as much fun in usefully destroying caterpillars' nests as in mischievously robbing those of the farmers' good friends, the birds. The work, however, should not be confined to the orchard and garden. These insects are even more partial to the wild cherry than to the apple, and often these trees on the borders of the woods and along the roads may be found covered with these tents. Of course, they should be as carefully destroyed as if they were on the most valuable fruit trees, for, if let alone, they will produce a crop of moths that will fly in all directions and lay their eggs even in the most vigilantly watched garden. Dr. Fitch recommended that some wild cherry trees should be planted on the borders of the orchard, in order that the moths might be attracted to lay their eggs on them in preference to the apple, as he says, it will be much easier to destroy a hundred egg-masses or tents on a single tree than if they were scattered over a hundred separate trees. Various remedies have been proposed for these caterpillars, such as coal oil, soap suds, lye, etc., but there is no method so simple and easy, and so thoroughly efficacious as destroying the tents in early spring. Where this is neglected, the results are disastrous, and orchards are sometimes seen denuded of foliage and in a pitiable state, owing to the laziness or ignorance, or both, of the owner. Such people ought to be indicted as a public nuisance, for they not only lose their own fruit, but they keep a nursery for supplying their neighbours with these destructive pests.

The next stage in the life-history of the insect is the formation of the cocoon and the change into a chrysalis. Before undergoing this transformation, the caterpillars wander away from the tree, and search for some sheltered place, such as the underside of the top boards or stringers of a fence, loose pieces of bark, etc. Here they spin each one an oval cocoon (Fig. 42, *d*) of yellowish silk, mixed up with which is some yellow dust

which looks like powder in the month of June.

The final transformation is into a moth. Fig. 43 represents a larger caterpillar. The colour is green across the fore-wings and the whole creature is covered with July and may at once be seen at houses by lights at night, the room, here and there, the lamp, then spiralling into the butte, the performance taken of destroying a future generation.

The other insect, *Clisiocampa sylvatica*, is in appearance at all times in clusters (Fig. 44) in a square, as it were, by comparing the tent with the top is depressed.

The caterpillar is but may be distinguished from the Apple Caterpillar by the difference in colour and appearance and by the transverse lines.

Very much the same as have been recorded is that the Forest Caterpillar of a tent in a fork of a tree. When gathered they are with a stick