

drawbacks may be lessened, if not prevented, by gaining a knowledge of the history and habits of the insect depredators—a most interesting and in this case a most profitable study. It should embrace, however, not only a knowledge of our enemies but also of our friends, for many insects which by the ignorant are classed among the former really belong to the latter, and in the economy of nature are the most powerful allies we can have in the destruction of injurious species. Now that practical Entomology is so far advanced there is no difficulty in obtaining the necessary information from the numerous books and reports published on the subject. The fruit-grower, therefore, who suffers loss from the ravages of insects has only himself to blame; because, in nearly every case, an acquaintance with the habits of his insect foes would have enabled him to prevent, or at least to lessen, the damage he has sustained. No matter how suitable the soil and situation may be, or how careful the cultivation, if the proper precautions are not taken against the attacks of insect enemies, the result is sure to be disappointment and loss.

The Entomological Society of Ontario, established in 1863, has done and is still doing a great work for the agriculturists and fruit-growers of Canada. A branch of the Society, composed of resident entomologists, is in operation in Montreal. The members have taken up the pursuit, not only with the view of advancing the study of the insects of Quebec scientifically—a work which has hitherto been much neglected—but they are desirous of assisting the agricultural and fruit-growing interests of the Province as much as lies in their power. In response to an invitation from the Association, this paper has been written as an introduction, and is intended to be followed by others on Practical Entomology in future Reports. A valuable paper on “Borers”—insects which have done great though unsuspected damage to our fruit-culturists—is given this year from the pen of one of our members.

In order to make our efforts practically valuable to the fruit-growers of Quebec, we ask their co-operation in this important work. The observations of parties in different parts