

fusion to those who understand that language, and check lists and catalogues create the nomenclature of those who do not. To the argument "b" we say, while we confess what would otherwise be grammatical errors are thus justified, it is impossible to look upon this family idea as existing in fact. Gender may be arbitrary in some languages, but it is arbitrary to the individual word only. The sun may be considered masculine, but then *all suns* are masculine. If *Papilio* be masculine, then all *Papiliones* are masculine. And, taking the generic name as a family name, so that promiscuously masculine and feminine words may be joined to it, there are already existing and universally received names which could not thus be used—*e. g.*, *Pyrameis cardui*, and all names, such as *Argynnis Edwardsii*, named in honor of any one. If the specific name is an individual name, it is indeclinable unless with the generic name. And surely, then, these must be *Pyrameis cardius* and *Argynnis Edwardsius*. Again, if specific names are given names, they should always be begun with a capital letter—which in descriptive adjectives (more common as names of the *Geometræ* and *Noctuæ*), no one ever thinks of writing. And yet, again, it is impossible to get a noun or name idea in specific names which is an adjective. We remember how the old Puritans ransacked the Bible and their own brains to get expressive names for their children; but they gave the names in the noun form. It was Charity, not Charitable—or at the most, if an adjective, it was grammatical in its use. The adjective idea remains permanent. *Hepialus argenteo-maculatus* is, it is true, the *Hepialus* called by that name; but it is as well true that it is the *Hepialus* that is silver-spotted. We may be dull, and that may be the explanation, but we cannot comprehend that the names of insects are arbitrary, as are the names which designate men and women.

Can we not rightly make an appeal for the observance of these laws?

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO FOR THE YEAR 1878.

The Annual Report of our Society to the Department of Agriculture of Ontario has just issued from the press, and will be mailed to our members in the course of a few days.