

All over the warmer portion of the Continent, however, its value is now acknowledged.

There is on the Continent a moth the larva of which is called the Processionary Caterpillar, on account of the remarkable organization which it possesses. As a rule caterpillars are very independent beings, each one shifting for itself, and not acting in concert with others. But the Processionary Caterpillars have a fashion of marching with a precision which would do honour to the most perfectly drilled troops of modern times. A single caterpillar takes the lead, and the rest follow in "Indian file," the head of one almost touching the tail of its predecessor. On account of their numbers these caterpillars are exceedingly destructive, and would be even more injurious were it not for the Calosoma beetle, which deposits its eggs in the habitation of the Processionary Caterpillar. These latter creatures dwell in a common silken web spun by themselves, and very much resembling the home of the little Ermine moth which is so plentiful in our hedges and fruit trees. No sooner is the Colosoma grub hatched than it begins to eat the caterpillars, and as it is exceedingly

voracious, it makes great havoc among them. So true is the instinct of the mother-beetle that there is scarcely a web of the Processionary caterpillar in which at least one Calosoma cannot be found. Sometimes several of the larvæ of this beetle are to be found in the same Processionary nest, and then they are rather apt to defeat their own objects. They do not seem to possess the least discrimination, but when they come across anything alive and soft they consider themselves bound to eat it. Consequently, it occasionally happens that one Calosoma larva comes upon another, and "strikes it amidships," as a sailor would say. The natural result takes place, and while one Calosoma grub is hunting for Processionary caterpillars, it is being devoured by one of its own brethren. Here again we recognise the forethought of the Creator. The sense of pain, terrible as it is to beings of a higher organization, is so slightly developed, that the Calosoma larva will be so absorbed in devouring a Processionary caterpillar that it does not know that it is itself being eaten by one of its own kinsfolk. Again, these things are too wonderful for us. —*Sunday Magazine.*

LESSON IN PRACTICAL LETTER-WRITING.

BY G. A. GASKELL.

LETTER writing, in its true excellence, can scarcely be regarded as an art. Instruction may, no doubt, be imparted through the medium of rules; but these applicable to the subject are few, and at the same time of the simplest character.

It should always be borne in mind that letter writing is but "speaking by the pen." The first endeavour of a writer should, therefore, be to express

himself as easily and naturally as in conversation, though with more method and conciseness.

1. *Style.*—The style should be determined, in some measure, by the nature of the subject, but in a still greater degree by the relative positions of the writer and the person addressed. On important subjects the composition is expected to be forcible and expressive; on lighter subjects, easy