

# The Canadian Entomologist.

Vol. XLI.

GUELPH, AUGUST, 1909.

No. 8.

## WILLIAM HENRY EDWARDS.

For thirty years the name of Mr. William H. Edwards was familiar in the scientific world as one of the two most notable students of the Butterflies of North America, the other being the now venerable and venerated Dr. Samuel H. Scudder, of Cambridge, Mass. Both of these men spent the greater part of their lives in the preparation and production of magnificent works on our diurnal Lepidoptera, to which we owe our present knowledge, incomplete though it may be in many respects, of these beautiful and interesting creatures.

Mr. Edwards, born at Hunter, N. Y., on the 15th of March, 1822, was the son of William W. and Helen Ann Mann Edwards. His father was one of the fifteen children of Judge Timothy Edwards, whose grandfather was the Rev. Jonathan Edwards, of Stockbridge, Mass., the progenitor of many able contributors to American intellectual life. Mr. W. W. Edwards built a tannery at Northampton, Mass., in 1794, and sent his leather to Boston; in 1816, having exhausted the supply of hemlock bark in the Connecticut valley, he removed to Hunter, in Greene Co., New York, and re-established his business on the Schoharie Creek, where he drew his supplies from an estate of 1,200 acres of hemlock forest in the Catskill Mountains. Here our friend was born and brought up, spending his early years in the midst of beautiful surroundings and imbibing a love of nature which continued throughout his life. From the village school he was sent to Williams College, Mass., and completed his course there in 1842; he then studied law in New York, and was admitted to the bar in 1847, after which he made his home at Newburg, N. Y. Subsequently he became interested in the coal fields of West Virginia, and removed to Coalburgh, where he was President of the Ohio and Kanawha Coal Company. He was an extensive land owner in the Virginias of the early days, a builder of railroads, an opener of coal mines, and throughout all his life active in the affairs of the community among whom he dwelt. Though thus busily engaged in commercial pursuits, he always found time to devote to the