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POPULAR AND PRACTICAL ENTOMOLOGY. A RED-LETTER DAY.

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Part I.

On July 2nd, 1917, I formed one of a party of friends who motored up to Chemong Lake. We were celebrating the holiday, but in a peculiar way; half an acre of ground had been rented by the more enterprising members of the party, and on it quite a respectable market garden was in process of culture; how respectable, you will perhaps best understand when I tell you that it yielded during the season several barrels of potato bugs. When Tom Sawyer wanted his fence whitewashed, he simply cracked up the job till his friends insisted on doing the work for him; much in the same way for more than a week—especially in the leisure hours of evening—my neighbour had been carefully preparing the ground for me to dig in with the hoe. But the strategic advantages of his position were more than neutralized by my thorough acquaintance with Tom Sawyer and the famous whitewashing episode. I was well aware that the picnic wasn't going to be all cakes and ale and that I should be expected to do my bit; but just as my neighbour took rod and reel, I took insect net and cyanide bottle, to provide for lucid intervals.

It was about half-past ten when our chauffeur drew up in a spacious cedar thicket almost at the water's edge. We found the occupants of the other car had stopped at the kitchen-garden instead of coming on the last half mile to headquarters. Feeling confident that there were not hoes enough to go round I invited the only other man in our party to come exploring the wood with me; he had spent 60 years diligently ignoring woods, so I knew he was pretty safe to refuse; and indeed I hardly waited to see what "starting-hole" of excuse he would wriggle down, before plunging into the shadowy cedar aisles in a direction calculated to bring me out near a big hill that I had noticed during the drive. This height commanded a view of the lake and was wooded in front all