

developed, and its supply of food fails, it seeks for other means of subsistence. I do not see any mention of it in Fitch's "Noxious Insects," but I believe that his *Aphis Maidis* is the same species. It has been observed on the following plants:—*Secale cereale*, *Friticum æstivum*, &c., *Avena sativa*, *Danthonia strigosa*, *Hordeum vulgare*, *H. murinum*, *Bromus mollis*, *B. secalinus*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Poa annua*, &c., *Polygonum Persicaria*."

Mr. Walker calls attention to the fact that the aphid has many insect and other enemies in Europe, and in Canada it also has its enemies which have during the past two seasons been busily at work lessening its numbers. These have been so graphically depicted by Dr. Fitch, in the Albany Country Gentleman, that I cite his description:—"On many of the wheat heads may at present be noticed from one to half a dozen or more of these lice, which are very large, plump and swollen, of the colour of brown paper, standing in a posture so perfectly natural you suppose they are alive. Touch them with a point of a pin, you find they are dead. Pick off a part of their brittle skin; you see there is inside a white maggot, doubled together like a ball. Put one or two of these wheat heads in a vial, closing its mouth with a wad of cotton. In a week's time or less, you find running actively about in the vial, some little black flies like small ants. These you see have come out from the dead lice through a circular opening which has been cut in their backs. Drive one or two of these flies into another vial, and introduce to them a wheat having some fresh lice. See how the fly runs about among them examining them with its antennæ. Having found one adapted to its wants, watch how dexterously it curves its body forward under its breast, bringing the tip before its face, as if to take aim with its sting. There, the aphid gives a shrug, the fly has pricked it with its sting, an egg has been lodged under its skin, from which will grow a maggot like that first seen inside of the dead swollen aphid. And thus the little fly runs busily around among the lice on the wheat heads, stinging one after another, till it exhausts its stock of eggs, a hundred probably or more, thus insuring the death of that number of lice. And of its progeny, fifty we may suppose to be females, by which five thousand more will be destroyed. We thus see what effectual agents these parasites are in subduing the insects on which they prey. I find three different species of them now at work in our fields destroying this grain aphid. I have not space here to describe