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CANADIAN THREE-COLOUR PROCESS ILLUSTRATIONS.

BY JAMES FLETCHER, OTTAWA.

We are indebted to the Toronto Engraving Company, Limited, for the beautiful plate given in this month's issue. The invention of the trichromatic photographic process of illustration is undoubtedly one of the most important stimuli to scientific work of recent years. Especially is this the case in the study of insects, where it is frequently necessary to depict accurately very slight differences, both in form and colour, which could be described only with difficulty, or at great length. The three-colour process makes it now possible to reproduce, with great exactness, any coloured object that may be desired, and at a moderate cost. As excellent examples of this kind of work in illustrating insects, we may refer to the many beautiful figures which have appeared in the pages of our esteemed contemporary "Entomological News," as well as those which have also adorned some of our own issues.

Up to the present time the best class of this work has all been done in the United States, but we are now able to present a plate done entirely in Canada by the Toronto Engraving Company, Limited, which, to the writer, seems to be equal to the best imported work. Anyone wishing to get full particulars as to cost, etc., should correspond directly with the above firm.

The insects figured on the accompanying plate were chosen with the special purpose of showing a wide range of colouring. The species are so well reproduced that there will be no trouble in recognizing all of them.

Figures 1 and 1a represent the Large Ermine, *Estigmene acrea*, Drury, female and male. This beautiful moth, which is common in all parts of Canada, is the perfect state of the so-called Salt-marsh Caterpillar, a name which was given to it many years ago by Dr. Harris, and of which an interesting account is given in his classic work on the Insects Injurious to Vegetation. The full-grown caterpillar is one of the common "woolly bears" and when full-grown is over an inch and a half in length. It is