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A BIT OF CONTEMPORARY HISTORY.

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In the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, Vol. XXXV, p. 183, in a paper entitled "A Coleopterous Conundrum," I told of my discovery of an anomalous beetle occurring as a seeming museum pest in my New York collections. In this article I quoted freely the expressed opinions of several well-known coleopterists as to the position and affinities of the singular little insect. My paper, though it contained nothing which was not strictly true, was, unfortunately, written in a somewhat flippant, would-be humorous style, its colloquial diction and tone of levity—if not absolute irreverence—being quite out of place in a scientific periodical. This, as I should have known from sad experience, was a grave error. No conscientious naturalist should possess, or recognize in others the possession of, a sense of humour. As might have been anticipated, painful results followed my blunder. In writing the sketch referred to, I had not dreamed of making a scientific description of the odd coleopter, or of giving a generic or specific name. But I carelessly introduced the following sentence: "Shall I ever find other specimens of what I have sometimes, in chat over my discovery, styled *Ignotus ænigmaticus?*" I wrote the absurd name with a smile, which I somehow fancied would be caught and interpreted aright, even by far-away readers of my humble paper. Eheu! Alas! Alack! How little I realized what I was doing. I was not long in ignorance. For I very soon learned that, all unwittingly, I had, at least in the opinion of some of our most distinguished and learned entomologists, created a genus and species, and I had given to them names which, however ridiculous and inappropriate, must henceforth and forever cling to these dainty little creatures, these curios among coleoptera and perhaps be linked, too, with my own unworthy name. My protests, my plea that I "didn't go to do it," were all in vain. The innocent beetle was referred to constantly by the unfortunate title used so idly, so