

Anyone who has collected, and studied, and bred butterflies for years will have ideas as to the limits of variation in each species, and he will judge forms newly presented to him by those which he already knows. The eastern Argynnids—seven species—show little variation except in size, and it is only *Cybele* and *Aphrodite* that show that, according as they are northern or southern. The others are remarkably constant. Neither of these species, whatever its variation, runs into another, or approaches another. No one but a novice can possibly mistake one for another. Judging by what I see of them, I do not expect to find much variation in the genus elsewhere, and in fact if there are any variable species in our fauna, they form the exception, not the rule. The greater part are certainly as well defined as *Aphrodite* and *Atlantis*. I believe all the 42 described species, unless perhaps *Clio*, to be good species, constant to type, breeding true. *Clio* may turn out by breeding to be a dimorphic form of *Eurynome*. I should be delighted to be the means of proving it, but till it is proven, I hold it as separate. As to *Artonis*, that it is distinct from *Eurynome* and *Clio* I have no doubt whatever. I know it is found abundantly where *Eurynome* does not fly, and of course it breeds to its own type.

On page 535, in this remarkable statement, when speaking of the Argynnides of all the world: "The difficulties in this genus are not so great as in *Colias* and *Erebia*, except in the species inhabiting the Rocky Mountains and Pacific States of North America, which run into each other in a most extraordinary manner. Most of the European species, though closely allied, are fairly distinct, and I have only marked one species out of America as doubtful." So far as relates to all the world, then, except these western districts of America, the rule I laid down holds good by Mr. Elwes' own admission, that the several species of Argynnis vary only within certain limits, and nowhere run into each other.

Mr. Elwes had only to make sure of his American species, which he could easily have done by seeing the original types, and he would have found his rule held good universally. But ignorant of the types, he started wrong, and trusting to what he calls authentically named specimens, received from experienced collectors, together with his lack of knowledge of the preparatory stages, or of what are the most important features of the imagos, he has landed where we find him.