the English sparrow into that city. Other species occasionally increase largely in certain seasons for some unknown cause. On Mount Desert one season I saw myriads of the Pretty Pine Spanner, *Cleora pulchraria*, which is not usually so plentiful. Some of the principal species which injure our cultivated plants are the Army Worm, *Heliothrips unipuncta*; the Cotton Worm, *Aletia argillacea*; the Cabbage Cut-worm, *Hadena devastatrix*, and other Cut-worms belonging to the genera *Agrotis* and *Hadena*. The pine trees are bored by the larvæ of several moths, and so with the hickories, as well as the fruit trees in our orchards. Some excellent scientific work towards working out the natural history of all these species has been done by the Department of Agriculture at Washington and the various State Governments. Taking into consideration the damage inflicted by these insects, it may be said that money is well spent towards understanding all about these pests, and the way to abate them is to understand their histories and modes of attack first. The fact remains that in many instances we can do comparatively little to check the ravages of insect pest; we have them chiefly removed by the multiplication of their natural enemies.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COAL TAR FOR THE PLUM WEEVIL.

Dear Sir,—Respecting the use of coal-tar in the matter of driving away the plum-weevil about which Prof. Claypole inquires (p. 180), I have seen it recommended several times, and perhaps the source of the different commendations of it was Prof. Alex. Winchell's paper. I have tried the coal-tar and found it of no avail. Some have followed advice published at one time, and applied the tar directly to the bark of the trunk and branches and thereby destroying the life of the tree, as has also been done with carbolic acid. All similar ways of fighting the plum-weevil must be classed as *parrying* methods. Systems aiming at wholesale slaughter, permit me to say, I deem are more judicious. There are at least two very reliable *exterminating* methods in use against the pest, both of which are explained by Mr. B. Gott in his article on the "Plum Curculio," in Annual Report of Entomological Society of Ontario, 1879.

Very respectfully yours,

Clyde, N. Y.

W. L. DEVEREAUX.

PIERIS RAPE VAR. NOVANGLIÆ.

Dear Sir,—In the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, Vol. iv., p. 79, Mr. Scudder describes a variety of *Pieris rapæ* under the name of *Novangliæ*, and indicates that it is a new variety, developed since the introduction of this species into America. He gives Mr. Stainton as authority that nothing of the kind occurs in Europe. Curtis, in his "Farm Insects of Great Britain," page 101, after describing *Rapæ*, says: "But I possess a male, taken near Oldham, in Lancashire, which has all the wings of a bright yellow color." Is not this Mr. Scudder's variety *Novangliæ*? If so, the origin of it must be placed further off than since the introduction of the species into this country, and the cause of its development, something operating in England as well as in New England. Yours truly,

State College, Orono, Me., Dec. 20, 1883.

C. H. FERNALD.

PARASITE ON VANESSA ANTIOPA.

Dear Sir,—In the ENTOMOLOGIST for September, your correspondent, Frederick Clarkson, speaks of obtaining so few parasitic insects from various cocoons. Perhaps it may interest some of your readers if I mention some cases of an opposite character that have come under my own observation. From a chrysalis of *V. Antiopa* I counted 145 little green flies, and from the cocoon of a curious green and white worm, of which I have not been able to find the name, I *carefully* counted 1,257 very small black flies. This cocoon was not as large as *V. Antiopa* chrysalis. You see I am not scientific enough to know the names of these parasites, but I send the facts for what they are worth. Yours truly,

Watertown, N. Y., Nov. 8, 1883.

HARRIET H. KEYES.

REMARKABLE GATHERING OF BEETLES.

Dear Sir,—On the 10th of October last, while walking along the new dock, now in course of construction at Weller's Bay, I noticed what seems to me a remarkable occurrence, and one which I should like to know if others have observed. Along the outer edge of the crib-work were thousands of beetles, which were so thickly collected together in some places that a spot the size of one's hand would have on it from 30 to 40 insects; they were chiefly *Coccinellidæ*, but among them were *Carabidæ*, *Chrysomelidæ*, *Staphylinidæ*, and other families. In the course of a few minutes I picked up, besides specimens of many other species, no less than 55 *Donacias*.

At the time there was a strong southerly breeze blowing off the water, to which they were fully exposed. They were clinging to lumps of moist sandy mud, which had been recently dredged for filling the crib, and to moistened wood-work. No attempt was made at flight while being picked up. On the inner edge, or land side of the crib, not one was to be seen.

JOHN D. EVANS, Trenton, Ont.

NOTES ON THE LARVÆ ON SOME SPHINGIDÆ.

Dear Sir,—In looking over your Entomological Report for 1881, I find, among the descriptions of the larvæ, pupæ and imagos, the following about the larva of *Hemaris tenuis*, Gr.: "The larva is, we believe, at present unknown." I have collected and reared this same larva for the last four or five years, and found it plentiful, feeding on the snowberry, *Symphoricarpos*, of which I have noticed, I believe, two varieties or species: one with small, almost round leaves, the other, which seems very rare, with larger leaves and more pointed. Having believed this larva to be fully described, I took no pains to make notes of its color or characteristics, and could not now furnish a description of it. I have a number of pupæ of this species. I also found two sphinx larvæ this season, of which I have not yet seen a published description. Being much occupied at the time I was feeding these, I put off making notes until one day when I was at leisure, then I found it was too late, as they had entered the ground. One I took feeding on Privet *Ligustrum*; it had the general appearance of *Sphinx drupiferarum* in size and color, only that the oblique lines were light yellow, almost white, with a broad band nearly an eighth of an inch wide of a beautiful dark ultramarine blue; caudal horn light bluish-green, ending in a horny brown point, heavily granulated with black. The other larva I found on black ash and on the fringe tree, of which we have several fine specimens in the city park; on these latter I also found feeding *S. chersis*, which much resembled this one. *Chersis* differs in that it tapers slightly towards the head; the stigmata are white in the centre, surrounded with bright red, and the caudal horn is but lightly granulated with black. Pupæ without tongue case; of a coffee-brown color, whilst in the former it is almost black. Both larvæ fed readily on black ash in my garden. *H. tenuis* I have never found feeding on any other than the above mentioned shrubs. I also found a third larva feeding in company with *H. thysbe*, much resembling *D. myron*, on *Viburnum dentatum*, the pupæ of which is a light grayish tan color, with the markings of a *Darapsa*. PH. FISCHER, 528 High St., Buffalo, N. Y.

VARIATIONS IN MARKINGS OF *CICINDELA SEX-QUITTATA*.

Dear Sir,—I have just read with much interest Mr. Townsend's article (Vol. xv. p. 205-8) "On the variation of the elytral markings of *Cicindela sex-guttata*," and as he quotes from my field notes for 1881, I feel called upon to modify the record therein made casually of a two-spotted variety of this beetle. A more careful examination shows that, in addition to the anterior spots of normal size, rudimentary posterior ones may be discerned with a good glass, or more plainly, as Mr. Townsend points out, by examining the under surface. I can discover no trace, however, of the intermediate spots. The specimen is apparently a variation in the direction of the immaculate southern variety known as *Violacea*, Fab., towards which it also tends in coloration. I may add that of eighteen other specimens at present all in my collection (and taken promiscuously), five belong to the first variety and five to the third; one of the latter showing an interrupted line from the anterior to the inner spot, and having the posterior ones rudimentary. Three belong to the fifth variety; one of these has also an interrupted line from anterior to inner. The remaining specimen belongs to the seventh variety. Other interesting varieties probably occur; and as the beetles are very common here, I will endeavor next season to obtain a more extended series. The color of many specimens also departs very much from the typical green toward a decided blue.

W. HAGUE HARRINGTON, Ottawa, Ont.

ON THE GENUS *IDIOSTOMA*.

Dear Sir,—I have seen in the July number of your valued periodical (Vol. xv., p. 139) in a letter from my esteemed correspondent, Miss Murtfeldt, the confession which she has kindly made public on my behalf of my oversight in characterizing the genus *Idiostoma* as new to science, whereas it had been already described by Messrs. Grey and Boll under the name "Metamorpha." When I first received an example of this genus from South Africa, I had not seen the original description, nor should I have expected to find it among North American genera. I make no excuses for the mistake; but as the name *Metamorpha* is pre-occupied, having been used by Hubner for another genus of Lepidoptera, I venture to point out that, according to the accepted rules of Zoological nomenclature, the name "*Idiostoma*" should now be retained.

I am, yours faithfully, WALSINGHAM.