IN A SWING.

[HE.]

Each daisy underneath your feet
Should count itself thrice happy sweet;
Each purple trodden clover-head
Should think you even when I tread.
How blest is every twisted strand,
Of rope, entwined by your hand!
Now, up it tie, faster! so!
While through the soft air you go,
I wish that I might always stay
Below you, as I am, to-day,
Keeping you far above all care
That other women have to bear;
And high in air though you might be,
You always must come back to me.

[SHE.]

Dear heart, if love's staid all year long,
If twined rope were really strong,
If daisy-bloom and clover-head
Were never known to wind with red;
If every robin on the tree
Didn't look down and wink at me,
And say, "That creature tries to fly,
But knows not how to soar on high;"
If I could bring these things to pass,
That you should stand upon the grass,
And fancy your head would swing
But life is quite another thing
Since one of us on earth must bide,
The other should not leave his side.

—[Appleton's Journal.

The Grasshopper

Historical Review of the Ravages and Remedies Address of Governor Pillsbury before the Conference of Governors at Omaha, October 16, 1876.

GENTLEMEN: While it is not difficult to obtain information regarding the nature and habits of the locusts or grasshoppers, no particular methods for their extermination or for protection from their ravages have yet been found to any satisfactory extent. We can learn without much trouble of the great destruction made by them in the different States, and especially in the Mississippi Valley, but the vital necessity of the hour—a necessity connected with the best interests of agriculture—is a speedy, practical remedy for the great evil. The Bureau of Agriculture at Washington, established for the advancement of our great agricultural interests, is nearly silent in regard to locust or grasshopper devastations, the attention of the Department not having been directed to the investigation of the subject. Is there not a great fault that this Department has not given this question more attention? Surely it could not in any manner aid or advance the interests of agriculture better than by a thorough investigation of a subject closely allied with the vital prosperity of the country. The fullest information on the subject is embodied in the report of the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution of 1858. In order to bring the subject readily before you, I deem it proper to review briefly the destruction which has been made by the locusts in various countries, and at different periods of the past, together with some of the means which have been employed for defense against their inroads.

Perhaps the earliest recorded appearance of the grasshoppers upon the North American continent, was upon the lands of the Jesuit missionaries, in California, in the year 1722. They reappeared there in 1746, and in 1753 and 1754, and again for three years successively, beginning with 1765. Captain Jonathan Carver, who explored the vast region of the extreme Northwest in 1766, describes their appearance at that early day, adding that "they infest these parts and the interior colonies in large swarms, and do a great deal of mischief."

The first record we find of the appearance of the locust in the Northwest during the present century is contained in Neill's History of Minnesota. It occurred in the Red River settlement in the year 1818 and 1819, and was an invasion in great force, causing much suffering in a young colony already struggling with the numberless hardships incident to early pioneer life. The account states that the grasshoppers came from the west one afternoon in the last week of July, 1818, ate everything green and deposited their eggs. The colonists were obliged to send to Prairie du Chien to obtain seed for their next crop. From 1820 to 1855 there seems to have been no marked locust invasion in the Mississippi Valley, excepting the ravages in Texas in 1845 and again in 1849. This long interval of quiet may perhaps be explained by the fact that within the interval severe visitations were felt in California in 1828, 1838 and 1846, and by the possible fact that the locusts may have crossed the Rocky Mountains, and made advances westward during those years. But it is plain, from the words of Carver, already quoted, that the appearance of the locusts in the Northwest was a thing of repeated occurrence before the time when he visited the country [1774], and it is more than probable that even portions of Minnesota were visited between 1819 and 1856.

The invasion of Minnesota in 1856-7 was confined mostly to a narrow belt upon the Upper Mississippi Valley, and though limited in area was exceedingly severe. They reappeared in 1864 and 1865, chiefly in the northwestern portion of the State, doing but little damage except in a few localities. Their next appearance was in 1868, when they made a slight incursion. They appeared in limited numbers, doing little damage, in 1871-2. But the period of the most prolonged and destructive visitation of the pests is that which began in 1873, and continues to this date.

In the vicinity of the Sacramento Valley, Cal., in July, 1855, the locusts made their appearance in great numbers. The air for three days, at an elevation of from 20 to 200 feet, was literally thick with them, resembling a dense snow-storm. Great numbers fell upon the streets of Sacramento, and the city seemed actually taken by storm. They immediately commenced the wholesale destruction of everything green in the neighborhood. In the Sacramento Valley whole orchards, vineyards and gardens have been consumed by them. Entire fields of grain and other crops and vegetables were eaten up in the course of a single day. In some portions of the valley they annoyed the passengers and horses of the public stages to such an extent as to cause the greatest inconvenience, and, in some instances, so as to positively endanger human life.

They even consumed the leaves and bark of the alder tree, and the young leaves and bark of the small branches of the cottonwood and willow, and even the soft green parts of the bulrushes, and in some parts of the valley they ate through gauze and textile coverings of all kinds, which had been used to shelter animals and plants from their attack. In the same year they visited Oregon, Utah and Texas in great numbers, destroying every green thing in their way, and fully one-half of the entire crop of all kinds. In 1856 Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and other States were visited. Their ravages were fully as destructive as in California the previous year. The principal mode for the destruction of the locusts has been the burning of the prairies. The Indians take the locusts, sweeping them into holes or pits, or surrounding them by fire and driving them into the center, thus roasting them, and afterward using them for food. As early as the years 1749, 1754 and 1756, the locusts made their appearance in Maine (see Williams' history of Maine), and devoured almost every green thing, even to potato tops. So great was the alarm occasioned among the people that days of fasting and prayer were appointed on account of threatened calamity. In the year 1826 the locusts made their appearance in New Hampshire by millions, and were fully as destructive as in Maine. They destroyed the entire crops of the State or nearly so. Late in autumn a heavy flood came, after which cold weather set in and destroyed the eggs which had been deposited during the summer. So abundant were these insects, that Arnold Thompson, of Merrimac county, succeeded in catching in a single evening, between the hours of 8 and 12, 5 bushels and three pecks, by means of a sack fastened to a crosspole.

In Dwight's travels through New England and New York in the years 1797 and 1798, there is an account of the locusts in Vermont, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and the insects in those States were, if possible, even more destructive. They devoured clover, maize, tobacco plants, burdock, all vegetables, and even garments of men busy in the fields. They also devoured the loose particles of sawdust left on freshly sawed boards. In 1838 Baltimore was infested by these insects. The locusts were so thick and destructive in gardens and grounds that negroes were employed to drive them from the fields and gardens with rods, and in this way the insects were repeatedly whipped out of the grounds, leaping and flying before the line of castigators like flocks of fowls (these were red-legged locusts).

From Gray's account of the West India Islands locusts they are fully as destructive as in the United States. Wherever they alighted, either upon trees, corn or green fruits, nothing was expected but ruin and barrenness. Efforts were made on the approach of the insects to frighten them away by the blowing of trumpets and other instruments, and to destroy them trenches were dug, and the young driven into them. Mexico has often been infested with locusts, and their ravages have caused in some localities severe famine. They often devastate various portions of Central America, and according to accounts given by E. G. Squire, are of the same species as those in the United States. At intervals they afflict the entire country. The means of defence there resorted to are lighting of fires, and by shouting and waving branches to arrest the attack.

In Palestine the inhabitants at the approach of the locusts endeavor to drive them away with smoke from burning piles of wood, and with beating of sticks and rods upon the ground, and of metal kettles, with musical instruments, shouting, etc.

In Morocco, where people have been acquainted with locusts, and subjected to their ravages some portions of the year, time without date, the people undertake to destroy them with wet and dry ditches, into which the young insects are driven and destroyed; and also by driving horses, cattle and sheep over the grounds infested by them.

Long ropes were used; these were drawn upon the ground as low as possible by two men having hold, one at each end, who, at the same time made noise by brawling and beating, endeavoring to drive them into trenches dug across, or to a cloth stretched out upon the ground and drawn up to a ridge, where they were trampled upon and crushed by rollers. In the province of New Russia the most effectual method of destroying locusts is by driving the young into ditches dug 2 or 3 feet deep. The Russian government has decreed that a sum equal to 10 cents a pint shall be paid for the locust eggs. The locusts in Russia are gathered at night by the aid of a sieve, and thrown into bags and so destroyed.

In some countries the experiment of watering the fields with lime water and lye to destroy the eggs of the locust has proved impracticable, as the eggs can hardly be reachad to any extent.

In Greece each inhabitant is required to take part in their destruction three times a year. First in destroying their eggs; next, in destroying the young larvæ, and lastly, in destroying the adult locust. In China and the Roman empire, and in many parts of Turkey, the rural authorities are required to have the inhabitants attend to the destruction of the locusts in order to prevent their becoming a public scourge. The means for their destruction were sheets spread out and the young locusts driven on them, and put into bags and destroyed; also brooms and shovels were used for their destruction. A reward is paid for the destruction of the insects and their eggs by those Governments. In France, when the locusts make their appearance, all the people who are able go to the rescue—men, women and children—and use whatever means may be at hand. From the earliest times, by regulation of the Government, a common price has been paid for the locusts collected and their eggs. The reward of one-half franc is paid for two pounds of eggs, and one-quarter franc for the same weight of the insects. Twenty-five thousand francs have been paid in one year for collecting 66,000 pounds of eggs and insects. In Italy, Hungary and Spain the governments pay rewards for the destruction of locusts or their eggs.

In Spain they formerly swept the young locusts into large heaps with long brooms and burned them. Eighteen thousand bushels were collected in three weeks by 3,000 men. It is certain that many kinds of birds are very destructive to the locust and are his worst enemy. A bird in India termed the grakle is a great consumer of the locust and its eggs. The grakle is similar to our California clenate or blackbird. The inhabitants of India have killed the grakle to almost his extermination because of his depredations upon the young crops; but when this has been effected a great increase has occurred of destructive insects and especially the locusts. Some of the eggs of the locust being accidentally introduced into the French Island of Bourbon, they multiplied so as to threaten the devastation of the country. The Government learning the great services of the grakle in India, had a number of pairs imported and distributed over the islands under the Government's charge. They bred very fast, and in a few years the locusts were exterminated. The grakle then began to dig the newly sown fields, in search of eggs, when the colonists, concluding they were devouring the seed, were alarmed and got them exterminated by the Government. In a few years they perceived their error, for the locusts again commenced their ravages. Upon this the Government procured a new supply of grakles and the birds cleared the islands of locusts.

There is a species of birds found in immense numbers in Russia, Poland and Lower Egypt, and on the shores of the Mediterranean, called the rose-colored blackbird, that feeds on locusts and their eggs and larvæ. It devours incredible numbers in a day. The red-winged starling of the Southern Atlantic States, described by Alexander Wilson, is another great enemy to the locust. Mr. Wilson estimates that 2,000,000 of the starling will consume in three weeks the enormous amount of 16,200,000,000 of the eggs and larvæ of grasshoppers.

The large number of birds found in our several States are intended as positive blessings to the people, and there is no doubt that suitable laws should be passed by all States, and especially those which are ravaged by locusts or grasshoppers, for the protection of birds, especially the starling, blackbird, lark, crow, jackdaw, stark, and that the rose-colored starling and grakle should be introduced into the United States. These birds are a very destructive enemy to the locusts. They pursue them at night, when they alight on the ground. It should be regarded as a crime to shoot or catch any birds which show themselves useful to the inhabitants. In Egypt the ibex was considered sacred, because it destroyed reptiles and insects, especially the locust. France places her chief reliance for the destruction of locusts upon birds.

I shall not attempt any details of the prolonged visitation of the destructive insects, from which several States are now suffering. Most of you are doubtless familiar with the sad experience of many localities in your several States, where the people have suffered continuously to the last extremity of endurance. In my own State the ravages have thus far been confined to a comparatively small belt along our western and northern borders, but within this area many localities have suffered an almost total loss of crops for four years in succession, and with these people the question is fast assuming the vital alternative of exterminating these pests, or of being exterminated by them. During the present year, while the total loss has been little or no greater than in prior seasons, and less complete destruction has occurred in any locality, the insects have laid their eggs in localities not heretofore visited by them, creating an apprehension for the future, such as has never before been experienced.

It is a singular fact, although the grasshoppers or locusts have infested various portions of this country, more or less, nearly every season for the past 100 years, none of our observing writers or scientists have made but a passing notice of an insect which has caused this coustry so much distress by its terrible ravages. The nature and habits of the grasshopper should be diligently observed by cultivators of the soil, and by the scientific men of this country. The General Government should employ the ablest naturalists in America to study and compile for public use the most searching and complete investigations into their habits, etc., and the best methods of checking their increase and thwarting their ravages. The most illustrious nations of the world have not disdained to devote their time and means to the destruction of this pernicious insect; and it surely becomes our nation, which prides itself upon its practical sagacity, to give timely heed to a problem upon the solution of which depends so largely the primary sources of its prosperity.

Night on the Nile.

There was a wild gorge in the Arabian hills, where the chain drew near the shore. As we approached it I saw that it was flooded with mellow light. Soft breezes bore us slowly against the river current, and we noiselessly approached the mouth of the gorge. Oh, vale of wild enchantment! Fantastic crags leaped into the air and hung suspended by some mighty magic. Between the golden walls, in the bed of the valley, a grove of palms rustled their plumes in the delicious air, and just above these palms rose the splendid moon. Every leaf was luminous in its light, every rock sparkled faintly, and out of the mouth of the valley poured a deluge of light, in which we were all crowned with glory and transfigured. Our barge was silver, our sails of softest silk, and bright flames played upon the waters under us. It was one of the gates of Paradise! There was a great bend in the river, beyond the valley, and when we had rounded it those gates were closed on us forever and ever. The moon climbed up into heaven and did what she could to smother the stars, but they are not easily outshone in those crystal skies. The cabin went to sleep in a body. I hung about the ship and burned my weed with the spirit of one who offers a sacrifice to some adorable but invisible object. I scented the incense of the nargileh and heard the water bubbling in the shell of the cocoanut. I knew that the hashish eaters were sleeping their fatal sleep, [we have six of them in our crew.] And very shortly one of these slaves of sleep began muttering a story to the moon in a kind of singsong that attracted about him an audience of intent listeners. The story-teller reclined on his bed of rugs between decks; the hatch was drawn back, and a great square of moonlight brought him into strong relief. Dark Nubians lay at full length on the deck and listened as stealthily as spies. Two or three of the hashish eaters sat near and applauded the narration with foolish delight, chuckling to themselves continually.—Charles Warren Stoddard in the *San Francisco Chronicle.*

Industrial.

THOMAS G. OWEN, Solicitor of Patents of the IOWA PATENT OFFICE, at Des Moines, reports the following U. S. Patents issued to Western inventors:

OCTOBER 10, 1876.

Cultivators—Frederick P. Beneler, Charleston, Iowa. Frame of tubular pipe bent at different angles, and supported by bearing wheels. Tubular plow-beams, to which plows are connected by hooks and break pins.

Flower Stands—H. H. Butler, Des Moines, Iowa. A bracket having an inner ribbed hub fitting over a grooved standard, upon which it may be revolved or vertically adjusted.

Nail-Plate Feeders—Rollin Van Amburgh, Wetmore, Kansas.

Milk-Safes—Charles Beam, Jackson, Iowa.

Washing Machines—J. F. Blair, Fredonia, Kansas.

Rein Holders—James E. Bryan, Humboldt, Kansas.

Butter Workers—Henry A. Chon and Henry C. Hartman, Des Moines, Iowa. A box-form barrel, having a movable screen at its bottom, carries a plunger and its operating mechanism, and has adjustable bearers, and is adapted to be suspended over a tub and adjusted to suit the size and convenience of the person operating it.

Combined Cultivator and Harrow—A. Demaree and Tennis Vreerland, Fairfield Iowa. A frame hinged centrally by connecting bars, operating with vertically adjustable rollers.

Portable Fences—G. F. Stevens, Schuyler, Nebraska.

Faucets—Anton Tomiska, Iowa City, Iowa.

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Hogs—Live	5 90	@ 6 00
Sheep—Live	3 40	@ 4 00
Flour—Good to choice	4 00	@ 4 75
Wheat—No 2 Chicago	1 27	@
Corn—Western mixed		@ 60
Oats—Western	43	@ 46
Eggs	26	@ 27
Butter	15	@ 28
Pork—New Mess	17 25	@ 17 50
Lard	10 50	@ 10 75
CHICAGO.		
Beeves—Choice	$ 4 75	@ 5 15
Hogs	5 00	@ 5 05
Sheep—Good to choice	3 50	@ 4 25
Butter—Choice to yellow	21	@ 26
Eggs	20	@ 22
Flour—White winter	4 00	@ 5 00
Spring extra		@
Wheat—Spring No 2	1 10½	@ 1 12
Corn—No 2	41	@ 41½
Oats—No 2	25½	@ 25¾
Rye—No 2	67	@ 68
Pork—Mess, new	16 00	@ 16 50
Barley—No 2	83	@ 85
Lard	9 75	@
ST. LOUIS.		
Beef Cattle—Fair to choice	$ 4 75	@ 5 00
Hogs—Live	5 30	@ 5 40
Flour—Fall XX	3 25	@ 3 75
Wheat—No 2 Red		@ 1 23
Corn—No 2	41	@ 41½
Oats	31	@ 31½
Rye—No 1		@ 97½
Pork—Mess	16 75	@ 17 00
Lard	10 25	@
CINCINNATI.		
Flour	$ 3 75	@ 5 00
Wheat—Red	1 15	@ 1 22
Corn	43	@ 48
Oats	31	@ 39
Barley	90	@ 1 00
Rye	65	@ 70
Pork	16 50	@ 16 75
Lard	10 25	@ 10 25
MILWAUKEE.		
Flour	$	@
Wheat—No 2		@ 1 12
Corn		@ 40½
Oats—No 2		@ 31½
Barley—No 2		@ 76
Rye—No 2		@ 56½
DES MOINES.		
Flour—Wholesale	$ 2 00	@ 3 00
Wheat—new	80	@ 1 20
Corn	32	@
Oats	21	@ 26
Barley		@ 45
Rye	40	@ 45
Eggs	15	@ 20
Butter	17½	@ 20
Hogs	4 75	@ 5 00
Cattle	2 25	@ 3 50

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