

to await the success of the net which he had spread, and whence, had fortune proved kind, he would have boldly rushed to secure the struggling prey. It happened, however, that no other insect had the misfortune to be imprisoned along with himself, and, as already hinted, none can get in. There, on his watch-tower, he still remains as motionless as a statue. There has the patient little animal continued for the space of twelve long months, having taken up his position on the 3rd of October, 1851, and kept watch and ward without having ever moved night or day, as far as could be observed, except on three occasions, which, however, were so trifling, that they are not worth mentioning. But this is not all, as will be anticipated. The animal being still alive, it follows, as a natural consequence, that life has been sustained during all this time without the least particle of food having been obtained. The little creature is still as life-like as on the first day of his imprisonment.' This circumstance is not a little curious, and, to the naturalist, the fact must be of some value. Mr. Edwards adds that the longest period during which, so far as he can learn, spiders have been ascertained to have lived without food, is ten months." — *From the 'Banffshire Journal,' October, 1852.*

*Some Remarks on the Habits of the Hesperidæ.* — Most writers on Entomology state that the majority of the Hesperidæ rest with the fore-wings vertical, while the hind ones are horizontal. This is certainly the case with many of the species with which we are best acquainted; but in the great majority of exotic species the wings are carried either vertically, as in most other diurnal butterflies, or expanded horizontally, as in many Geometræ, and occasionally some Nymphalidæ. I do not remember having seen any of the Hesperias carry their wings deflexed, as the Castnias and Noctuidæ generally do. During my residence in Brazil, I noted accurately these various modes of repose in all the species I captured, but most of the ticketed specimens and my notes referring to them are unfortunately lost. I am inclined to think, however, that this character will serve to divide the family into two, or perhaps three, natural groups. On looking over my own collection, I find about 150 species which sit with their wings erect; about 50 with expanded wings; and but very few, which I cannot now determine with certainty, which carry the fore-wings only erect. On referring to Messrs. Doubleday and Westwood's work on the genera of butterflies, I find that the species of the first division, such as Antoninus, Rhetus, Exodeus, Amyclas, Gnetus, fulgurator, Celeus and Proteus, belong to the genera Pyrophyga, Ericides, Goniurus and Goniloba, and some species of Pamphila, as P. Epictetus. Of the second division, such as Thyreus, Oreus, Herenius, obscurus, &c., to the genera Pyrgus, Nisoniades and Achylodes. Those of the third division appear to belong to the genus Pamphila, but certainly do not include all the species. Some of the long-tailed species, such as Goniurus Proteus &c., sometimes expand their wings in the morning sun, as do some of the Epicalias, Ericinas, and several others; but their true habit is to rest with their wings erect. I once bred a species of this family, which offered some peculiarities. The larva was long, cylindrical, smooth, pubescent, and green; it fed on the plantain. The pupa was suspended horizontally beneath a leaf of the same plant, and braced; it was pale green, and the head pointed; but the greatest peculiarity consisted in the spiral tongue being contained in a free external sheath, forming

a straight bristle longer than the whole body of the pupa. The perfect insect was one of those with vitreous spots, closely allied to *Goniloba Antoninus*.—*Alfred R. Wallace*; *March*, 1853.

*Note on Vernacular Names.*—Having lately had the good fortune to meet with the 1st and 2nd volumes of the 'Entomological Magazine,' to complete my set, I observe in vol. i. p. 317, the following:—"Rather Extraordinary.—On Sunday, as Mr. Wm. Ferris, of Pennywell Lane was in his garden, about 11 o'clock in the forenoon, millions of insects of the caterpillar species, forming quite a cloud which darkened the air, passed over him from West to East.—*Bristol Mercury*.—!!! ED." Had the worthy Editor of that volume only known that the common May-beetle or chaffer (*Melolontha vulgaris*) is called by the name of "the caterpillar" in this part of the kingdom, it would have eased him of a considerable portion of his doubts as to the correctness of the statement; although I believe it is very unusual for such extensive flights to take place in the middle of the day, the close of the day being much more congenial to their habits. While upon the subject of this insect, I may as well remark that last summer, on several successive evenings (very sultry ones), from about sunset to the end of the twilight, I watched them coming from a pasture field on the opposite side of the road from a row of houses, (the road running nearly North and South). They undeviatingly flew from about North-east by East to South-west by West; not an individual varied from the assigned course. They averaged about one every second that passed over the house I stood in front of: how far they extended right and left I cannot say; I often observed from four to six on the wing at the same time. The flight was direct, without any wavering one way or the other; a few that seemed not to have taken a sufficient angle of elevation to enable them to clear the roof, struck against the upper part of the house, but soon recovering themselves, they followed the same course as their companions had taken. But to return to the previous subject:—so completely has the *Melolontha* possessed itself of the name "caterpillar," to the exclusion of its rightful owners, the larvæ of the Lepidoptera, that when I have been speaking to persons not acquainted with insect metamorphoses about the changes they undergo, if I happened to mention a caterpillar, I have been obliged to explain that it was not the insect or beetle that children fasten with a thread to make it spin, but the *grub* that devours cabbages or other plants that was meant. The name by which the Lepidoptera are commonly known to the Welch is "Pillipálla," an evident corruption of the Latin *Papilio*.—*James Bladon*; *Pont-y-Pool*, *February 14*, 1853.

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*Proceedings of the Zoological Society.*

*Tuesday, March 8*, 1853.—*Dr. GRAY*, Vice-President, in the chair.

The Secretary read a letter which had been addressed to *Dr. Gray* by *Mr. Oswell*, respecting the discovery of a rhinoceros by himself and *Capt. Vardon*, in the country about the river *Limpopo*, which they at the time considered to be a new species, as it probably is. The horns of this animal, brought home by *Col. Steele*, and about to be presented by him to the British Museum, were exhibited to the meeting. Their peculiarity consists in the forward direction of the lower horn, the end of which was evidently worn away by contact with the ground in feeding. In a note attached to *Mr.*