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A VIOLET.

From underneath a wayside stone
A violet peeped, with cheerful smile,
And though it blossomed there alone,
I thought 'twas happy all the while.

It drank the blessed sunshine in
And sweetly gave its best to God;
The little flower my heart did win,
Though scarcely raised above the sod.

With heavy heart I sought the wood,
Oppressed with dread of sorrow's pain,
It drew me from my faithless mood,
Back to a hopeful trust again.

For in its lowly, modest face
I traced my Father's tender care;
No one, no thing, no scene, no place,
Too small His watchful love to share.

I broke its stem most tenderly,
I kissed it, wondering if I knew
The good its smile had brought to me
As underneath the stone it grew.

MARGARET MAY.

INSECT CHANGES.

WHEN we look at a young bird or quadruped, we usually know what general appearance the creature will present after it has reached the adult stage of its existence. The difference usually noticed between a young and an adult animal, is one of growth of the organs, and a symmetrical development of the parts. But an insect undergoes many and far greater changes than mere growth in size, during the course of its life. So strange and wonderful indeed are these changes, that in each of them the insect appears as of a different kind. What resemblance, for instance, do you see between a gaily flitting butterfly, and a crawling caterpillar? Who would ever detect, at first sight, a relationship between a bright-colored tiger beetle, and a wriggling maggot? or between the living abominations so common in rotten meat, and the lively little flies, which make themselves so pleasantly "at home," about our houses? Yet in reality, these widely different appearances are but separate stages of individual insects. The caterpillar, in time,

becomes a brilliant butterfly or moth; the maggot develops into a beetle or a fly.

The stages through which most insects pass are three. Let us illustrate these by examining some one of our common insects; say, for instance, the beautiful *Cecropia* moth, which may be frequently captured at night during the present season, in the orchards and flower gardens of either city or country. It will be well if we examine the adult insect first, that all may know the particular kind of which we are speaking.



Fig. 1. *Cecropia* Moth.

Here is a fine specimen (Fig. 1), which a friend of mine captured last evening, as it came through an

open window to enjoy the light of a lamp in his room. The sketch here given, however, is smaller than the living moth. The *Cecropia* moth is sometimes called the Empress of the Night; though that name has been applied by entomologists to a slightly different species, the *Luna*. The beautiful creature measures from five to six inches from tip to tip of the wings; which organs are completely covered with scales of variegated tints. The wing borders are especially beautiful; near the upper corner of each anterior wing is a deeply-colored spot, not unlike an eye, or perhaps more closely comparable to a miniature imitation of a peacock's feather-spot. Beside these markings, a dull red spot, with dark edging and brilliant white centre, is found, near the middle of each wing.

But in its infancy, this stately insect was entirely unlike the appearance we have been describing. Did you ever observe the large, green caterpillars, so common upon the leaves of trees during July, August, and early September? I refer to one of the largest and most beautiful of our common caterpillars, measuring sometimes four inches or more in length, and as thick as a man's middle finger.

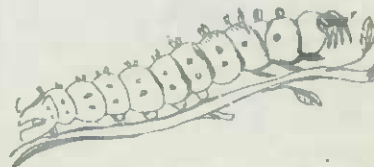


Fig. 2. Caterpillar of *Cecropia* Moth.

Here is a very small sketch of one captured last autumn on a currant shrub and preserved in alcohol until the present time. It is of a delicate green tint, with a number of red and yellow protuberances, not unlike warts, covered with short, stiff hairs, over its body. It feeds on the leaves of trees till autumn,