THE LOCUSTS.

As they will appear in Baltimore, and all the country from Germantown, Pa., to the Patapsco river, to Maryland, and from the Delaware river to the Blue Ridge, in May, 1851.

BY DR. SILAS C. SMITH.

In the whole range of natural history there is nothing more strange than the fact, which has been established with as much certainty as any fact in astronomy, that a little insect, not as large as the smallest nut-shell goes from the ground and remains there seventeen years, and then emerge in the form of a comparatively large insect; yet that spiritual tribe of insects shall appear here in immense numbers—numbers almost equal to the sands on the sea shore—exactly once in seventeen years, always in the same months, almost on the same day and same hour. It is indeed wonderful, but it is nevertheless true. The fact is, equally strange, is that there are numerous tribes of these insects. I have the particulars of twenty-eight districts in the United States, in each of which these insects appear every seventeen years; but each district has a different year for their appearance from that of any neighboring district. For example, the locusts appeared at Richmond and east of the Blue Ridge in Virginia, in 1844 and will appear again in 1861. So it is over the United States south of latitude 44 deg; north of which I have not yet heard of their appearance. They may appear throughout the west I have no doubt, as far as the shores of the Pacific. I have the fact of their appearance at Independence, the western limit of the Missouri.

In some one part of the American territory, they appear no doubt every year; that is, they appear somewhere every year. I have only been able to get satisfactory accounts of their appearance in four out of the seventeen years. The place of their appearance is now, I believe, with, without doubt. But that the progeny of the same insects that appeared in the 1844 will appear there again in 1861, there is no doubt. They do not pass from one district to another, but remain in the same district. The insect, in each fly, their flight is very short; from one to two, some fifty or a hundred yards to about as far as they remain stationary. Very high winds frequently drive them to a very great distance, even over rivers. Rivers and mountains are generally boundaries of their districts. Though they will go pretty well up the sides of the mountains, they do not, generally, reach the top, or go over it; and they cannot fly over a river the eighth of a mile wide. Still, the whole country, now occupied by only once in seventeen, will in the course of time be visited by them every year, in consequence of the mingling of the districts by the insects being washed by the winter. Iron ore in smelting. As before stated there are now several places where the insects of neighboring districts have joinghed, causing their appearance every eight and nine years alternately, &c.

Who knows but that other insects require also a number of years for their existence, though they now appear to be annual? The progeny of one that appeared several years ago coming up this year, and those of another that appeared a year after coming up next year, and so on.

The habits of the locust are as follows: By shaving off an inch of the soil, from the 1st to the 10th of April, or any time before the twentieth of May, in any place where trees, &c. grew in 1834, you will open the chambers of the locusts. They look like half-inch sugar balls. Dig down and you will find one located in the hole. The hole or chamber is a glazed matrix, he prepares himself for his final appearance in the perfect state. During night and in cold weather, he is at the bottom of the chamber of the locusts. They look like half-inch sugar balls. Dig down and you will find one located in the hole. The hole or chamber is a glazed matrix, he prepares himself for his final appearance in the perfect state. During night and in cold weather, he is at the bottom ready to hatch. Then take a lump containing them, cut carefully till you expose the eggs, and take them out, place them in the palm of the hand, and they will hatch in a few minutes. The little insect (seen itself from the egg shell precisely in the same way that the large one did in the spring, by rupturing the shell on his back. As soon as he is fairly out of the shell he starts off briskly in search of food. Let him get to the ground and you will see him work his way into a follow him, and you will see him attach himself to the tender roots of grass or other vegetables, and commence taking up the liquid exudation from the surface with his little rostrum or snout. These observations can only be made with a good magnifying glass. About the 25th of June the old locusts will have disappeared altogether.

The locusts do not go deep into the ground. They live upon the vegetable juices of the roots, and are perfectly safe; they take with their snouts or rostrum.

There are three small holes in the snout which, in feeding, are projected and spread out over the surface of the roots or leaves of trees, and these collect the juices and convey it by capillary attraction to the stomach. You can see this operation very distinctly in the perfect insect, by watching it with a magnifying glass. They have no other mouth or means of taking food either in the larva or winged state.

Political Secrets Revealed—Polk vs. Tyler.

A bitter personal controversy has been in progress for some months past, between Thomas Ritchie, of the Washington Union, and John C. Rives, of the Washington Globe, during which some curious facts have been brought to light by the latter. One branch of the quarrel grew out of the transfer of the old organ into the hands of Ritchie, through the interference and agency of Tyler and Polk, after it was rendered probable that the latter would be elected to the Presidency in 1844. Mr. Rives published letters from Gen. Jackson to Blair, (Mr. Rives' father,) and showing that he exerted all his influence to prevent Mr. Polk from repudiating his old organ and bringing Ritchie to Washington. But it seems that Polk was very anxious to have the Union, and to make pledges to Tyler, the latter being anxious that the official organ should not make itself too industrious in overhauling matters connected with the free expenditure of money for partisan purposes under his administration, and the former being quite as solicitous to engage in his behalf the support of Tyler and his adherents. Gen. Jackson therefore failed to prevent the consummation of the engagement, and as soon as he was satisfied that he must fail, he advised Blair to sell, but to take good care that he had ample security for the payment of the money. Gen. Jackson knew enough about Newspapers to satisfy him that none of the parties to the proposed arrangement could raise $50,000 for starting a new organ. Tyler and Polk were also aware of this fact, but by a little collusion, they could divert from the treasury the necessary amount, and by calling for it at equivalent periods and in small amounts, thus indirectly loaning it for private purposes without interest, Mr. Ritchie was purposely without interest, Mr. Ritchie would be unable to go along very smoothly. The way this "fair business transaction" was carried out was as follows:—$50,000 of the public money was drawn from the government deposits at Philadelphia on the 4th of November, 1844, and transferred to the Middletown Bank in the State, from whence, Mr. Rives alleges, it passed to the persons who made the purchase of Blair and Rives, and started the Washington Union. The whole amount was repaid as follows: In June, 1845, $20000; the balance in 1847, in installments of five, ten and fifteen thousand. The interest on this sum amounts to something like $10,000, which was given to Mr. Ritchie while the government was borrowing money to carry on the Mexican war! Mr. Ritchie denies any knowledge of the collusion between Tyler and Polk in regly to this detail, Mr. Rives says:—

"The collusion is, that Mr. Ritchie, knowing that the money was to be paid back, was not his own, might well say that he did not furnish it; whilst the other, knowing that he had been guilty of converting the public funds to a private use, could say with truth that he had paid back the identical money, &c. &c. &c."

Mr. Ritchie's reply to this charge is, that he was at the time of the date of the letter said to be in Mexico, and that he was not in the city of Washington, and that he was not in the city of Washington, and that he was not in the city of Washington