

THE STEEL COLORED LADY BIRD.

The Enterprising Little Immigrant From Australia.

Orange-growers will be glad to learn that the parasite that was sent here by Mr. Koebele about a year ago from Australia to make war upon the red scale is now propagating finely. It will be remembered that a very large percentage of the specimens died on the voyage, and that but very few reached here in good condition. For some reason this bug was not received with much favor from our horticulturists, and it was supposed that he had refused to become acclimated, and had gradually died out. But this is not true. The specimens that were colonized at Commissioner Kercheval's place on Lemon street have propagated very extensively and feed voraciously on the red scale. A reporter of the *Herald* visited the Kercheval place yesterday and found that the trees there were alive with them, and that they seemed to be in fine condition. Of course these are the progeny of the few pairs that were set out in the orchard over a year ago. Since the death of Mr. Kercheval no care whatever has been taken of them, but they have just grown up wild. It is, however, of great interest to the orange-growers to be assured that this parasite is increasing and thriving, and has become thoroughly naturalized. Mr. Koebele said that this insect was the voracious enemy in Australia of the red scale. There is no reason to believe he will change his nature here, and we have little doubt that he has found enough of his natural enemies at the Kercheval place to account for his present fine condition. The scientific name of this parasite is *arcus chalybeus*. It has been generally alluded to, however, as the steel colored lady-bug.—*National City Record*.

Obsolete Words.

The number of obsolete words that are to be found in Webster's dictionary is considerably larger than people have any idea of, says the *Boston Herald*. The following letter, written by an alleged poet to an editor, who had treated his poetry with derision, furnishes some idea of them:

"Sir: You have behaved like an impetuous scrogle! Like those who, envious of any moral celsitude, carry their ungidity to the height of creating symposically the fecund words which my polymathic genius uses with urbiety to abrogate the tongues of the weatless! Sir, you have crassly parodied my own pet words as though they were trigrams. I will not coarservate reproach es—I will obduce a veil over the atramental ingratitude which has chamfered even my indiscribable heart. I am silent on the focillation which my coadjuvancy must have given you when I offered to become your fantor and adminicle. I will not speak of the lippitude, the oblesquy, you have shown in exacerbating me, one whose genius you should have approached with mental disalceation. So I tell you, without supervacaneous words, nothing will render ignoscible your conduct to me. I warn you that I would vellicate your nose if I thought that any moral diarrhosis thereby could be performed—if I thought I should not impignorate my reputation. Go, tachygraphic scrogle, band with your crass, iniquitate fantors; draw oblectations from the thought, if you can, of having synchronically lost the existimation of the greatest poet since Milton!"

And yet all these words are to be found in the dictionary.

Would See Her Later.

Coming over from the East Side the other day a university car was filled with all sorts and conditions of passengers, conspicuous among them being a crowd of jolly university students. Opposite the boys sat a hard-featured female, evidently on her way from a meeting at the exposition. Next her sat a bright-faced woman talking with a friend. Naturally the talk drifted upon the subject of the revival meetings, and the friend asked, "I suppose you have been to some of them?"

"No, I have not," the other replied. "I have not had time," and as she spoke she signalled the conductor to let her off the car.

At her words the hard-featured female sitting next to her quickly turned and leaning forward, said in solemn tones, "Haven't had time? Will you have time to go to hell?"

The car had stopped, and as the lady reached the door she hurriedly retorted, "If I have I'll see you later."

Then she stepped into the street perfectly conscious of having been able to squelch a woman who didn't know enough to mind her own business.—*Minneapolis Tribune*.

Luminous Paint.

According to Jeksch, the sulphides of calcium, strontium, barium and zinc (the last prepared by distillation in vacuo) are phosphorescent after exposure to sunlight for a certain time. But only the calcium sulphide retains the phosphorescent power for any considerable time. The pure calcium sulphide gives forth a yellowish light, but after being raised to a red heat and receiving the addition of a small quantity of salt of bismuth, it is transformed into a material emitting a violet light for more than forty-eight hours after an exposure of a few seconds to sunlight. A luminous paint may be made by adding two pounds of this treated calcium sulphide and two ounces of glycerine to a solution of one pound of pure white gelatin in two quarts of warm water. The liquid should be applied hot, and two coats are sufficient. For out-door use, a little shellac in borax should be added to the paint, which should receive also a protective coat of shellac varnish.

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