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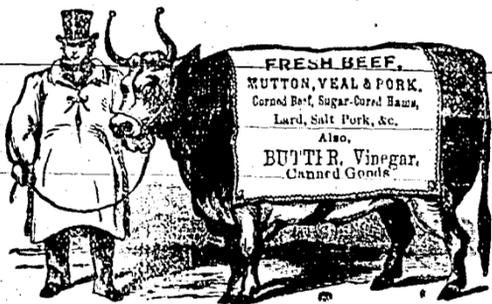
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Genesis of the Mosquito

BY A. J. KING.

Many intelligent people are uninformed as to the genesis of the mosquito, though there are few places on earth where their song is not heard; and it is not rare in Jersey. Happening to discover a numerous colony, in an incipient stage of development, a few days ago, in my hens' drinking-trough,—from a tiny "wiggler" to the pupa state,—I concluded to search for the eggs that produced this life. I was soon rewarded by the discovery of a black mass about one-fourth of an inch long and one-third as wide in the widest part, pointed at one end and widening to near the other and terminating in a blunt circular form, not unlike some boats, floating lightly upon the water. Placing a straw under it, I raised it carefully, and soon had it on a bit of glass under the lens of my microscope. What an interesting sight was here presented! Rows of cigar-shaped eggs, arranged diagonally across this boat-shaped mass, cemented together in the middle, and standing on end with the little end up. How beautifully and orderly they were arranged. How symmetrical their form. Light shone through the interstices between their circular forms, and presented a mosaic of exquisite beauty. With some emotion, but with less enthusiasm than actuated Archimedes, who, when a certain truth for which he had been searching flashed upon his mind while in a bath, ran naked through the streets of Syracuse, shouting "Eureka! Eureka!" yet I could not restrain myself from exclaiming, in my own vernacular, "I have found it! I have found it!" I called in all the family, and some of the neighbors, to see my new discovery. I was surprised and not a little disgusted, at the small interest some of them took in the matter. What! not take an interest in knowing just how that blood-sucker, that poison injector, that disease inoculator, that wicked stinger, that disturber of quiet and all slumber in the "stilly night" as in the active day, that assaulter, that breaker of "the peace of the people of the State of New Jersey" is produced! This was more than my patience (Job-like though it is) could quietly stand; and I confess I almost wished a "big Jersey" might then and there "go for 'em," that they might have a realizing sense of the importance of every one seeing it to be their personal, moral, christian, and religious duty to refrain from assisting in the propagation of this great pest. Some of my neighbors, with becoming zeal for knowledge, came and looked and admired the orderly arrangement of the egg-boat, and wondered if these were really mosquito's eggs? Accidents have often been the means of valuable scientific discoveries; and it happened that an accident contributed largely to the settling of this question beyond peradventure. The glass on which the eggs were got jarred, and the eggs were jostled and broken apart, some tipped over on their sides, and one was broken and its contents ran out on the glass, revealing a young mosquito "wiggler" like a chicken in the shell. This was perfect evidence that these eggs were what produced the wiggler, and it only remained to trace the wiggler to the image, or perfect mosquito. This I had a fine opportunity of doing, as there were all stages of development in my trough, from the egg and tinest wiggler to the pupa state.

This article is as long as space and the time of the editor will warrant this week, and I will resume next week the story of my further discoveries. However, I cannot close without admonishing everybody to look to their rain-barrels, hens' drinking-troughs, and all similar receptacles for water, and keep them clear of "wigglers," for they are merely young mosquitoes, and if allowed to develop will soon turn on you and your neighbors their blood-thirsty bills to torment you and them.

A good many so-called "swells" have nothing about them to merit that title but their heads.

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