

# The Canadian Entomologist.

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## HENRY EDWARDS.

This well-known and highly-esteemed entomologist died at his home in New York City, at 1.30 a.m., on the ninth day of June, 1891. His death was caused by dropsy and other complicated troubles, which affected the heart.

In him the world has lost an earnest devotee to science and art, and those who knew him, a kind-hearted, generous, true and sympathizing friend. In his death, entomological science has lost one of its most active and energetic workers, and his loss is deeply felt and deplored by all who knew him, and he has passed out of this earthly domain with the affectionate regret of many grateful and loving friends.

Mr. Edwards was born in Ross, Herefordshire, England, August 27th, 1830, and was destined by his father to become a lawyer. After studying for some time without evincing any particular aptitude for the profession, he entered a London counting house, and frequently appeared in amateur theatricals, for which he had much talent. He finally decided, much against the wishes of his parents, to adopt the professional stage. In 1853 he embarked for Australia, where he made his first appearance as an actor, and where he passed many prosperous years. From Australia he drifted to Peru and Panama, and in 1867 he reached San Francisco, Calif. In about 1877 he made his first appearance in the east, at Boston, and finally in 1879 he came to New York. In 1889-90 he again visited his old home in Australia, from where he returned last year. During all these years he was constantly connected with the stage, until only a short time previous to his decease, when he was compelled to retire on account of his illness. At the time of his death he had just returned from a trip to the Catskill Mountains, where he was staying for his health, and three and a-half hours later he entered into rest and the everlasting silence.

As an entomologist, Mr. Edwards was world-known, and was considered one of the greatest authorities of the science, to which he was attached ever since his boyhood days. He was chiefly known by his excellent papers on the Pacific Coast Lepidoptera, which contain the descriptions of many new and interesting species from that region. He was also known by his articles on North American *Ægeriadæ*, of which family he described nearly all our American species. Besides these papers he has also written many other articles on descriptions of new species and transformations of Lepidoptera. He also edited three volumes of the journal "Papilio." The last large work he published was his "Bibliographical Catalogue of the Described Transformations of North American Lepidoptera," which is now in the hands of all our working entomologists. Mr. Edwards spent much money for the increase of his collection of insects, and devoted all his leisure time to his favourite study. His travels afforded him many rare opportunities for collecting material for his collection and writings. The collection consists of about 300,000 specimens of insects of all the orders from all parts of the globe. It contains the types of all the species he described, about four hundred and fifty, except a few which are in other collections. It also contains a number of Grote's types of Noctuidæ and Pyralidæ, and many of Fish's types of Pterophoridaæ, and types of other writers. It contains also the unique pair of *Oniticellus californicus*, and many other uniques, oddities and rareties of considerable value. The collection is one of the largest private collections in the world. His library consists of about five hundred volumes of entomological works, and about double the number of pamphlets, and about two thousand volumes on travels and other topics. (I am not sure about these figures.)

Mr. Edwards belonged to many scientific and other societies. He was for some time vice-president of the California Academy of Sciences, life-member Brooklyn Entomological Society, member of the Torrey Botanical Club, Players' Club (New York), Bohemian Club (San Francisco), corresponding member Boston Society Natural History, San Francisco Microscopical Society, San Diego Natural History Society, Belgium Natural History Society, etc.

He leaves a widow who deeply mourns his loss, and we would here add our condolence and sympathy and heart-felt regret to her irreparable bereavement.

New York, June 15th, 1891.

WM. BEUTENMULLER.