for its accomplishment. And if so undertaken and carried out, it should be a work which could be pointed at with pride. I would fain see this club the author of it.

I would gladly have contributed to your meeting a more worthy address,

but beg you to remember that if not felicitous of speech I am constant of heart, and shall ever wish you prosperity and good fellowship in your future.

Respectfully,

B: *Pickman Mann.*

SEXUAL ATTRACTION IN *PRIONUS*.

BY ANNA KATHERINA DIMMOCK, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Late in the summer of 1883 my attention was drawn to the sudden appearance of a large number of holes in the garden, which, upon closer observation, proved to be the exits of numerous beetles of the genus *Prionus*. Having heard that the attraction of the male by the female was not common among coleoptera, and finding no notice of such attraction in the above-mentioned coleoptera, I captured a large female which was found in the grass with ovipositor distended and greatly protruded. Scarcely had the female been secured before a male *Prionus* appeared; he ran and flew, by alternation, meanwhile rapidly palpitating his antennae, about and around the tent, inside of which the female had been confined; finally, discovering the entrance to the tent, he flew in and lit directly on the screen under which the female had been put. After the appearance of the first male another was seen to approach the tent. He went through a similar performance to that of the first one, finally alighting on the cage. In this manner a great many male specimens of *Prionus* were taken in the course of an afternoon. On account of the presence of so many males

a number of females made their appearance, showing an attraction of the female to the male like that above-noted of males attracted by females. Instances similar to those just described, that is, of male insects attracted by females of the same species, have been frequently recorded in lepidoptera, especially among the *bombycidae*; but among the coleoptera such cases are, I think, more rarely met with, the only instance to my knowledge being the one originally mentioned by Prof. F. H. Snow,¹ and quoted by Mr. J. A. Lintner.² Prof. Snow found males of *Polyphylla variegata* vigorously scratching the ground above places where females were about to emerge, presumably guided to these places, as Mr. Lintner suggests, by the sense of smell, rather than, as Prof. Snow supposed, by that of hearing.

The most remarkable part of the sexual attraction manifested by *Prionus* is that of the females being attracted by the males, a kind of attraction concerning which I have found no notice whatever.

² *Mar.* 1884.

¹ Trans. Kans. acad. sci., 1874, p. 27-28.

² Lintner, 1st ann. rept. insects N. Y., 1882 [1883], p. 71.