Simon Snyder Rathvon of Lancaster, Pennsylvania was one of mid-19th century America's leading economic entomologists. His knowledge of controlling destructive insects stood as the first line of defense protecting Lancaster County's bountiful agriculture. On the state level he served as Professor of Entomology to the Pennsylvania State Horticultural Society, and on the national level he wrote reports for the United States Department of Agriculture. Consistent with these interests, he edited the Lancaster Farmer, functioned as the backbone of the Lancaster Linnaean Society, and was a Corresponding Member of the Academy of Natural Sciences and the Philadelphia Horticultural Society. This protégé of distinguished naturalist Samuel S. Haldeman was awarded an honorary Ph.D. from Franklin and Marshall College in 1878.\(^1\) This was a poignant and triumphant moment for someone from modest origins who had only a fleeting acquaintance with formal education. Rathvon's life would appear to be a 19th century success story. At the same time, however, there were many burdens and frustrations that consistently robbed him of peace of mind. A bad marriage, a house full of children, financial pressures, melancholy, and unsatisfied lust all served to make life miserable at times.

An extensive personal journal of over seven hundred pages reveals his insecurity as a scholar, his religious struggles, mental depression, resentment toward his wife, lascivious dreams, and a host of dark sentiments.\(^2\) By analyzing Rathvon's life, and particularly these writings, it is possible to better understand him not only as a self-made man who was part of a rich scientific tradition, but also appreciate some of the torment that often dominated the thoughts of one Victorian.

S.S. Rathvon was born April 24, 1812 into a household with deep roots in Lancaster County as his great grandfather Christian Rathvon emigrated from Germany by way of Switzerland and settled in southern Lancaster County about 1740. George Rathvon, his grandfather, made guns under the direction of William Henry and served as a Lieutenant in the American Revolution. Jacob Rathvon, Simon's father, was also a gunsmith and settled in 1810 with his wife Catherine in the bustling river town of Marietta.\(^3\) Jacob and Catherine's diminutive son Simon chose not to continue the family tradition of gunmaking, but in abandoning this tradition Simon really did not have another pursuit in mind. He
surely did not seem to care much about formal education. The Young man's limited schooling has been described in a biographical sketch:

... at the age of eight years he was sent to a day school kept by a John Smith ... where he continued two quarters, learning the alphabet and spelling in one syllable.... he was sent two quarters to Samuel Ross ... but did not make more than an ordinary progress. In the winter of 1821-22 he attended two quarters at the school of George Briscoe, where he made ... progress ... , and left school ... able to read, write, and cypher—at least as far as compound addition.4

Simon Rathvon was also characterized as having, "industrious habits, a retentive memory and ordinary perceptions."5 Between the ages of ten and fifteen he repeatedly hired himself out to area farmers, and worked whatever jobs he could find engendered by the bustling commerce along the Susquehanna.

His drift came to an abrupt halt in July of 1827, when Rathvon became bound in an apprenticeship to John Bell, a Marietta tailor. For the next five years Simon learned the art of tailoring and concurrently discovered learning, by borrowing and reading books from the private libraries of Marietta luminaries.6

In September of 1832 Rathvon opened his own tailoring shop in Marietta and thereby launched a business career that encompassed over half a century. During the initial two decades he moved a great deal: from Marietta to Philadelphia (1833), back to Marietta (1834), then to Lancaster (1839), back to Marietta (1841), and finally back to Lancaster (1848) permanently.7 There is no

S. S. Rathvon (1812-1891)
evidence to suggest that Rathvon enjoyed his work or found it satisfying. Tailoring, moreover, never proved to be lucrative enough to offset his considerable expenses—whether working for someone else or owning the major establishment he purchased from the estate of former employer Frederick Kramph. Put another way, tailoring was what Rathvon did for a living. It was something he tolerated. He consistently looked elsewhere to find meaningful activity. Fortunately, the towns of Marietta and Lancaster, though modest in size, offered more than a few cultural and intellectual diversions.

As early as the fall of 1832 the young tailor joined a group of thespians in Marietta. Participating in drama was the least significant consequence of joining the group. Far more important, "he came in social contact with some of the literary men of the town ... and ... became conscious of his own literary deficiencies." Most critically, Rathvon became acquainted with Professor Samuel S. Haldeman, a scientist of considerable standing. Haldeman headed the Pennsylvania Geological Survey (1837), lectured at the Franklin Institute (1842), held the chair of Natural Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania (1850-55), and evaluated papers submitted to the Smithsonian for publication. He was cited by Charles Darwin in "An Historical Sketch" that introduced the third edition of *Origin of Species* (1861).

It was Haldeman, apparently above all others, who made it possible for Rathvon to become a serious scientist. The professor provided encouragement, supplied scholarly books and journals, guided and instructed, and introduced his protégé to serious naturalists in the Lancaster region. Rathvon, for his part, proved to be a diligent student. A bundle of energy standing 5'8" and weighing 134 pounds, he required only a limited amount of sleep. Thus he could work at tailoring all day and then devote his evening hours (till 2 or 3 a.m.) to studying books and journals. Weekends provided yet additional time for study or field work.

Marriage and growing family responsibility did not seem to alter the pattern. In May of 1834 Simon Rathvon married Catharine Fryberger from Schaefferstown in Lebanon County. They proceeded to have eleven children (seven sons and four daughters) three of whom died in childhood. Apart from prolific child bearing, the marriage was a disaster. Despite his family responsibilities, Rathvon simply continued his pattern of nightly study. The creation of a Lyceum of Natural Science in Marietta in 1837 was for him an added source of encouragement. Predictably, he joined and initiated some modest collecting. Rathvon's other community activities in Marietta in the 1830s included service in the volunteer militia and playing the flute in the town band.

Key developments in the 1840s include his last major effort at earning a living as a self-employed tailor in Marietta (following a brief sojourn to Lancaster to work for his brother), and the emergence of a hearing problem. This touch of deafness surfaced sometime around his 30th birthday, and in one of his more
S.S. Haldeman, a Professor at the University of Pennsylvania (1850-1855) served as a mentor to Rathvon in the latter's scientific work.

mystical moments he attributed the loss to Divine retribution! Rathvon managed to convince himself that this was the price to be paid for his angry reactions to his sisters suffered from deafness and that this suggested a hereditary explanation.\textsuperscript{15}

During the same decade the young tailor began to write for Marietta and Lancaster newspapers. Some of these contributions were the sort of moral essays that readers expected to find in 19th century newspapers, but Rathvon broke new ground when he began publishing advice useful to area farmers and those who maintained orchards and vineyards. As his confidence grew in his own expertise in entomology he proved anxious to share this in a very practical way, often signing his articles with the pseudonym "Grantellus."\textsuperscript{16} Even when Rathvon served as editor of the Lancaster Farmer between 1869 and 1884 he continued to contribute heavily to area newspapers, apparently unconcerned that all the free advice in the local press might undercut the subscriptions and therefore the financial soundness of his farm journal.\textsuperscript{17} Thus, whenever and wherever possible Rathvon described what might be done to contain the damage wrought by such
threats as beetles and seven year locusts. It was in this activity that the tailor found meaning and purpose that had been missing in the workplace.

By mid-century Rathvon was 38 years old and had recently moved to Lancaster, the place that became his permanent home. He found stability in work by joining merchant tailor Frederick Kramph in a supervisory capacity. More noteworthy, Kramph was responsible for Rathvon joining the Church of the New Jerusalem in 1850.18

Not long after Rathvon joined the Church of the New Jerusalem he began to record his daily thoughts in some detail. He referred to this practice as writing his “loose sheets,” individual sheets of paper as opposed to a bound journal or diary.19 These reflections, recorded between March of 1852 and February of 1860, he later chose to label Autobiography.20 There is some justification for this because while the observations were produced between age 40 and age 48 they frequently refer back to significant events in his youth and early adulthood. For example, as a 20 year old Rathvon often played cards with other young men on Sunday afternoon. A spectacular bolt of lightning in an electrical storm, however, split a sturdy old tree just a few feet from the gamblers and delivered the young tailor from the pastime forever.21

Precisely why Rathvon decided to write his loose sheets is left to conjecture. One possibility is that he was simply emulating other educated people. Another possibility is that he decided to keep some kind of record of his deepest religious thoughts as a means of charting his spiritual odyssey, something he took very seriously. In any event, these loose sheets provide a window into the soul of this self-made naturalist and it is therefore useful to look at them a little more closely.

Romantic poetry and hymns are omnipresent throughout the seven hundred pages of reflection, with Rathvon possibly being the author of some of the poetry.22 He no doubt found a degree of comfort and satisfaction in copying the many lines of a poem or hymn on to his loose sheets. Predictably, these entries tend to be very positive in nature and might even be described as uplifting. Consciously or unconsciously they may have been included or added to serve as a counterweight to some of the darker thoughts that also permeate the manuscript.

One of the darker themes that is noticeable throughout is depression. He recounts, for example, what happened to him in the Spring of 1837 when he went to work for his brother as a salesman—a job for which this quiet personality was simply not suited. He experienced “discomfiture and embarrassment and aversion” and after a few months on the job “abandoned it with disgust.” This unsettling experience was followed “by days and nights of the deepest despondency.”23 Unfortunately, since depression often grew out of Rathvon’s frustration in the workplace, it continued for some time as entries for the years 1853 through 1856 make clear. Indeed, as late as 1857 this depressed state is still evident in the
following lament: "I wish I could feel interested in something that would really be useful to myself, my family... and the community at large... I just seem to be moping along without will, spirit, or energy." This concern may have been overstated, since this tailor and scientist spent anywhere from 18 to 20 hours a day working and studying throughout most of his adult life. Depression had little or no effect on the outer man; it was an inner torment. (The deaths of three of his eleven children only added to this affliction.)

Another dark theme conveyed in Rathvon's *Autobiography* is his growing disgust with his wife Catharine. The most basic reason for this was that Simon was strenuously committed to self-improvement and personal growth while Catharine remained a primitive Germanic farm woman from Lebanon County. Her husband's progress as a recognized scientist was neither pretentious nor shallow. It was real and substantial. Catharine, by way of contrast, lacked the time (with eight children) and perhaps the inclination to make significant changes in her own life.

The language that Rathvon employed to describe his wife was uncharacteristically harsh. He labeled her "stupid, bigoted, intolerant and unsocial." In the same entry dated November 4, 1855, he bemoaned the fact that Catharine was old beyond her years—suffering from "connubial old fogeyism." The reason for this became clear a week later when he finally gained ownership of his wife's birth certificate and learned that she was considerably older than he was led to believe at the time of their marriage. Expressing the moral outrage of a just man who had been duped, Rathvon thundered, "I have no vow of obedience to a disorderly, unmethodical, illiterate and vulgar woman."

All of this rage, however, was mitigated by other considerations. For example, how practical was divorce for a leader in the church with eight children in 19th century Lancaster? Or, what did Christian teaching have to say regarding a believer facing Simon's dilemma? Rathvon in one entry offered a wonderfully convoluted proposition when he observed: "How many... who are ill-mated become ill-natured, morose and are constantly devising means to escape from a bondage to which they have no intention of reconciling themselves instead of looking upon it as a condition permitted by Divine Providence... to further their regeneration from evil?" His basic persuasion was that Catharine as a spouse was unfortunate, but that their union was the God's will and therefore it was his Christian obligation to love her.

Rathvon was not saintly enough to extend such understanding to his mother-in-law. In a July 9, 1855 entry he notes, "There is an evident downward tendency in my family since the advent of my mother-in-law amongst us." More explicitly he observed, "Intellectually she never was any higher than a child of six or eight... added to which is now the childishness of old age accompanied by the darkest ignorance, superstition, and bigotry—and there is presented a state of mental darkness little short of insanity." Equally disturbing...
was his belief that his mother-in-law was having an influence on the family rather than the family helping to shape her behavior. Whatever the case, Rathvon found no compelling reason to take a charitable view of his aging nemesis. Perhaps he never forgave her for misrepresenting his wife's age.

The unhappy marriage just described was something that neither led to divorce nor to Simon pursuing other women. Both behaviors were unacceptable to the Lancaster scientist. The only option remaining, therefore, was to dream of other women.

Dreams played a very significant role in Rathvon's life. During the years 1857 through 1860 he not only dreamed frequently, but he remembered many of them, wrote about them in his loose sheets, and then sometimes wondered and worried about their content. He was fascinated by the fact that he had as much trouble hearing in his dreams as he did while he was awake. Similarly, a friend with a vision problem had difficulty seeing in his dreams. These were wonderful and compelling revelations to a scientific mind.

When Rathvon's employer and spiritual mentor F.J. Kramph died in April of 1858, Simon poured out a deep sense of love and gratitude in his daily entry and shortly thereafter held a conversation with Kramph in a dream. Almost two years later he dreamt of their tailoring enterprise and saw his own name on the shop where Kramph's had once been. Rathvon felt a deep sense of guilt about this even though he had purchased the business from Kramph's widow. Had he paid her too little? Did he simply consider himself unworthy to follow in Kramph's footsteps? These matters are not clear.

What is abundantly clear is Rathvon's inclination to dream about women. A September 1858 entry in his Autobiography described a "singular dream in which a beautiful woman accosted him" with a desire to "show him her objects." She indicated that she loved him. He concluded the entry by asking, "What can all of this mean?" An entry six months later recounts a dream in which the naturalist walked into a "hall filled with beautiful women." What happened next is not revealed. A February, 1859 entry describes a dream in which Rathvon went to bed with a beautiful woman and nothing happened. That same evening he had attended a lecture in nearby York and nothing happened—that is, he could not hear the speaker. Did the evening's experience suggest the dream? In two related dreams that Rathvon had two nights in succession a woman with whom he was acquainted became an actress and he married her. Did this mean that he was looking for a bit more drama and excitement in his life?

What Simon did understand about his endless dreams regarding women was that they represented manifestations of his lust—something he denied in his waking hours. As a serious believer and leader in the Church of the New Jerusalem this passion constituted a serious problem. It is probably lust that Rathvon was referring to when he lamented, "... the thickness of the darkness of my present spiritual condition," or wanted to cry out, "Who shall deliver me..."
from the belly of hell?" The perplexed churchman asks, "How can I who am bowed down by a weight of sin, which threatens to send me every day into the very sewers of spiritual filth—how can I stand up and repeat the words of everlasting life?"

At times, entries in his Autobiography seemed to indicate some progress in resolving the dilemma. Late in 1856 Rathvon requested Divine help to save him from the "lusts of the world and of the flesh." In July of 1857 he observed, "I am beginning to feel disturbed as to the propriety of sexual indulgence merely to gratify the sensuous appetite." Whether the comment represented an example of spiritual growth or merely the onset of a diminished sex drive at age 45 is unclear. What can be said is that Rathvon wrestled with the proper channeling of sexual desires throughout the years covered by his "loose sheets."

In February of 1860 his Autobiography came to an abrupt halt with no indication why. Conceivably, this writing served as a form of therapy and by 1860 Rathvon's success as a naturalist rendered this unnecessary. Perhaps he simply became too busy. (The death of F.J. Kramph in 1858 meant that Rathvon would not only take over the business they had both worked at, but also replace Kramph as the leader of worship in the Church of the New Jerusalem.) Whatever the reason, the cessation of the loose sheets insure that less is now known concerning the years beyond age 48.

In 1860 Simon agreed to serve as Librarian for the Lancaster Mechanics' Library Society. This major responsibility, which he carried out for over twenty years, involved choosing new titles as well as monitoring the existing collection. In 1861 he agreed to serve a term on the Select Council of the City of Lancaster—a task for which he really did not care.

Far more to Rathvon's liking, and central to his development as a scientist, was his membership in the newly formed Linnaean Society of Lancaster, initiated in February of 1862 and dedicated to "study, to investigate, and develop the natural resources of the great County of Lancaster." The nucleus of this group came primarily from the natural science committees of the Lancaster Athenaeum and the Historical, Mechanical, and Horticultural Society. The original members included several professors: T.C. Porter, J.P. Wickersham, Elias Weaver, Edward Brooks, John B. Kevinski, librarian Jacob Stauffer, law student J.R. Sypher, watchmaker G.M. Zahm, and S.S. Rathvon. For the next 25 years Rathvon served as Treasurer and a curator of the Linnaean Society and was in no small part responsible for the success the society enjoyed.

Complaints by members of the society upon the group's 25th anniversary could lead a reader to incorrectly conclude that not much had been accomplished, but that conclusion would be inaccurate. True, the Linnaean Society never acquired sufficient funds to publish their proceedings; and, true, they sometimes had difficulty gaining a quorum at their meetings. But consider what they did achieve. During the period 1862-1887 some 640 scientific papers were
read before the society and preserved in its library. A solid scientific library comprised over 500 bound volumes, 700 unbound, and 150 almanacs. This library included:

85 volumes of the *Second Geological Survey of Pennsylvania*
39 volumes of the *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences* (Philadelphia)
30 volumes of the *Reports of the Smithsonian Institution*
40 volumes of the *U.S. and PA Agricultural Reports*
15 volumes of the *Philadelphia Historical Society Proceedings*
20 volumes of the *U.S. Patent Office Gazette*
8 volumes of the *Journal of Conchology* (mollusks)

Beyond reading papers at meetings and establishing a library, the members of the Linnaean Society also engaged in serious collecting such that during the first 25 years more than 40,000 specimens had been acquired—some of these exhibited in a modest museum run by the society. It was in the activities and fellowship of the Linnaean Society that Rathvon "found a home." It was here among formally trained academic and self-taught naturalists that he could both learn and instruct. Rathvon could bemoan the meager budget of the Society and express bitterness toward those who joined the Linnaeans and never took the commitment seriously; but, more than anything else, the Society was a source of inspiration.
In addition to contributing to the library and specimen collection of the Linnaean Society, Simon also worked on establishing his own. It was estimated that he built a personal library that approached 1,000 volumes. He established a modest mineral collection and assembled almost 10,000 specimens of insects, focusing primarily on coleoptera (beetles and weevils, for example). In recognition of these interests Rathvon was elected a Corresponding Member of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia (1854) and of the Entomological Society of Philadelphia (1862).

The great war that did so much to disrupt American life in the 1860s had no apparent direct effect on S.S. Rathvon and his tailoring business. During the early 1860s some of his work on entomology was published by both the United States and Pennsylvania departments of agriculture, and at the end of the decade (1869) he launched one of the major projects of his career: the Lancaster Farmer. This journal offering advice to farmers began as a monthly, but in 1874 became a quarterly. Here was an idea that should have worked: selling expertise to farmers who had very few places to turn for information. Note also what was at stake. In 1860 and 1880, for example, Lancaster County led the entire nation in the market value of its farm product. Yet Rathvon still had a very difficult time selling subscriptions at $1.00 per year.

The naturalist/editor later observed that he had given the Lancaster Farmer "16 of my best years (1869-84) and over $1,000 out of pocket" and yet it was never enough. In a sad and somber comment he summed up his feelings: "I sincerely believed that the agriculturalists of... Lancaster County would sustain a local journal, but it seems they preferred to worship other gods." He was too polite to identify the "other gods," but most who know the area would contend that one very important god was TIGHT-FISTEDNESS! Conceivably he could have taken solace in his ability to keep the journal alive as long as he did.

Some of the minor triumphs that helped to alleviate this frustration can be seen in Rathvon being named Professor of Entomology to the State Horticultural Society (1861) and receiving an honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree (1878). There is no indication, however, that Rathvon was ever offered a college or university teaching position. At the same time, it is not at all clear that he would have accepted such a post late in his career. Thus, Simon Snyder Rathvon simply persisted in his dual career: tailoring by day and pursuing science in the time that remained.

What the Lancaster naturalist managed to write in his "spare time" is truly impressive, but not readily quantified. His newspaper articles, for example, appeared in a variety of Lancaster County newspapers for roughly forty years. Scholarly papers read before the Linnaean Society or reports written for the State or U.S. Department of Agriculture obviously constituted more substantial efforts. Rathvon's single greatest writing endeavor, however, was a book-length
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EGGS FOR HATCHING.

Copy of the Contents page of The Lancaster Farmer during Rathvon’s editorship.
manuscript treating *Injurious Insects of Pennsylvania*, a work never published and a manuscript that apparently has not survived.

Dr. F.W. Goding, in a sympathetic biographical sketch written sometime in the late 1880s, argued that Rathvon, "might have accomplished more had not diffidence placed restrictions upon him." More specifically, "had he received assistance from the State authorities . . . his great work on the injurious insects of Pennsylvania would have been published several years ago." Dr. Goding, a scientist from Illinois, believed that the work would have been a "classic" contribution from an "eminent economic entomologist." The reference to Rathvon as an economic entomologist serves as a vivid reminder that science was employed in a very practical way to protect commercially valuable agriculture.

From the mid 1880s until his death at age 78 on March 19, 1891, Rathvon’s health steadily deteriorated. The partial deafness that had plagued him for decades became total deafness. Added to this was "vocal weakness" and "inarticulation." It was claimed that "chronic physical afflictions" kept him from not only most physical but also most mental labor in his last years. His death in the Spring of 1891 was attributed to "congestion of the brain and lung troubles." As a 32nd degree Mason, Rathvon was buried in the Shriner’s Cemetary.

Notes

2. Rathvon’s "Autobiography," numbering 774 pages with some pages missing, is part of the archival collection of the Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster, PA.
4. Ibid., p. 466.
5. Ibid.
8. For example, see Rathvon’s "Autobiography," November 6, 1853, p. 28.
9. Rathvon’s tailoring business was evaluated by R.G. Dun and Company in their Credit Reports for Lancaster City. A microfilm copy of these reports can be found in the Hagley Library, Greenville, Delaware.
16. See the *Grantellus Papers and Miscellaneous Writings of S.S. Rathvon*, Archives of Franklin and Marshall College Archives, Lancaster, PA.
17. Ibid.
18. For an account of Rathvon’s role in this congregation see Scott T. Swank, "The Lancaster New Church (Swedenborgian),” *Journal*
of the Lancaster County Historical Society, 76 (1973), pp. 69-87. There is no evidence to indicate that church membership was a product of an employer coercing an employee as suggested by Paul Johnson in A Shopkeeper's Millenium (New York: Hill and Wang, 1978). Indeed, when Kramph rebaptised Rathvon—a lapsed Presbyterian—into the Church of the New Jerusalem or Swedenborgism he was introducing his employee to a church that prided itself on its intellectual respectability and the importance of good works as a prerequisite for salvation. The followers of Emanuel Swedenborg looked with decided skepticism at the wrenching and coarse religious conversions that had been part of the Second Great Awakening. So it is likely that reason, reflection, gentle persuasion, and the writings of fellow naturalist Swedenborg convinced Rathvon to join.

19. It is not clear to the researcher whether Rathvon intended that anyone be permitted to read this material.
22. Rathvon, "Autobiography," While Rathvon did much writing throughout his life, there is no indication whether or not he actually authored any of the poems or hymns that he copied on to his loose sheets.
25. Ibid., November 4, 1855, p. 250.
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid., November 11, 1855, p. 252.
28. Ibid., September 12, 1857, p. 487.
29. Ibid., July 9, 1855, p. 242.
30. Ibid.
31. Ibid., March 23, 1858, p. 591.
32. Ibid., April 21, 1858, pp. 602-603.
33. Ibid., May 3, 1858, p. 612.
34. Ibid., January 29, 1860, p. 761.
37. Ibid., February 3, 1859, p. 678.
38. Ibid., September 20, 1859, p. 734.
39. Ibid., June 12, 1853, p. 78.
40. Ibid., July 3, 1853, p. 83.
41. Ibid., January 14, 1854, p. 137.
42. Ibid., November, 1856, p. 381.
43. Ibid., July 30, 1857, p. 473.
44. Actually, about a year later in 1861 Rathvon returned to making reflective notes by writing monthly entries into what has been called his Diary. This continued through 1867 and resurfaced again in the mid 1870s and again in the early 1880s. He wrote on familiar themes: continuing mental depression, the financial burden of a large family, deafness, etc. His dreaming apparently diminished. This Diary is in the Archives of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA.
46. Rathvon, "Object and Progress of the Linnaean Society," Address delivered February 24, 1866, Linnaean Society Collection, Box 4, #241, Franklin and Marshall College Archives.
47. Ibid.
48. Ibid., p. 7.
49. Ibid., p. 6.
50. Ibid., p. 8. The Linnaean Society's specimens and artifacts formed the basis for the North Museum on the campus of Franklin and Marshall College.
51. Harris, p. 471.
53. The U.S. Department of Agriculture requested the right to publish two of Rathvon's papers. The first was an "Entomological Essay: Read Before the Fruit Growers Association of Eastern Pennsylvania," delivered in 1860 and published in 1861. The second was a major piece entitled "Entomology and its Relations to the Vegetable Productions of the Soil, with
Reference to both Destructive and Beneficial Insects," published, apparently in two parts, in 1862 (35 page document) and in 1863 (18 page document).


57. Ibid.

58. Harris, p. 470.

59. Dr. F.W. Goding, "A Pen Sketch of Dr. S.S. Rathvon, Professor of Entomology," in *Agriculture in Pennsylvania*, published by the State Horticultural Association, circa 1884, p. 10. Rathvon's magnum opus is, at present, something of a phantom manuscript to the extent that no archivist or data base can attest to its existence. It is possible that this great work was only *proposed*—perhaps as an anthology of his many articles and columns once a sufficient number of subscribers had been identified. Rathvon did advertise publication of *Practical Essays on Entomology* in the *Lancaster Farmer* from February of 1879 to November of 1884, contingent on subscribers financing the project.

60. Goding, "Pen Sketch," p. 8. This kind of praise suggests that Rathvon was several cuts above the stereotypical amateur entomologists of the Reconstruction Era described by Margaret Rossiter as people who "spent their lives building up complete sets of exotic specimens but were only rarely interested in the destructive agricultural pests nearer home." See Margaret Rossiter, "The Organization of the Agricultural Sciences," in Alexandra Oleson and John Voss, eds., *The Organization of Knowledge in Modern America, 1860-1920* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, University Press, 1979), p. 221.


62. Ibid. Rathvon's election as Corresponding Secretary of the Linnaean Society in January of 1890 suggests he was not totally debilitated at the end. See, *Minutes of the Lancaster Linnaean Society, January, 1890*, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.

63. Ibid.