

incapable of giving the smallest variations to its instincts. It has but one single method of operating; and if put from that, it can turn to no other; in the pursuits of the hound there is something like choice; but in the labours of the bee, the whole appears like necessity and compulsion. All other animals are capable of some degree of education; their instinct may be suppressed or altered; the dog may be taught to fetch and carry, the bird to whistle a tune, and the serpent to dance: but the insect has only one invariable method of operating; no art can turn it from its instincts; and, indeed, its life is too short for instruction, as a single season often terminates its existence. Their amazing number is also an imperfection. It is a rule which obtains through all Nature that the nobler animals are slowly produced, and that Nature acts with them in a kind of dignified economy; but that the meaner births are lavished in profusion, and thousands are produced merely to supply the necessities of the more favourite part of the creation. Of all productions in nature, insects are by far the most numerous. The vegetables which cover the face of the earth bear no proportion to the multitude of insects; and though, at first sight the
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