

the herbs of the field seem to be the parts of organized Nature which are produced in the greatest abundance, yet, upon more minute inspection, we shall find that every plant supports a multitude of scarcely perceptible creatures, that fill up the compass of youth, vigour, and age, in the space of a few days existence. In Lapland, and some parts of America, the insects are so numerous, that if a candle be lighted, they swarm about it in such multitudes, that it is instantly extinguished by them; and in those parts of the world, the miserable inhabitants are forced to smear their bodies and faces with tar, or some other unctuous composition, to protect them from the stings of their minute enemies.

On the other hand, Swammerdam argues for the perfection of insects in the following manner: "After an attentive examination, says he, of the nature and anatomy of the smallest as well as the largest animals, I cannot help allowing to the least an equal, or perhaps a superior degree of dignity. If, while we dissect with care the larger animals, we are filled with wonder at the elegant disposition of their parts, to what a height is our astonishment raised, when we discover all these parts arranged in the least, in the same regular manner? Not-