

barity, that might create a suspicion in any insects that their enemy was near.

It often happens, however, that the wind, or the shaking of the supporters, or the approach of some large animal, destroys, in a minute, the labours of an age. In this case the spider is obliged to remain a patient spectator of the universal ruin; and when the danger is passed away, it sets about repairing the calamity, being possessed of a large quantity of the glutinous substance of which the web is made. It sometimes undertakes the task of forming a new web; but, in general, the animal is much fonder of mending than making, as it is furnished originally with but a certain quantity of glutinous matter, which, when exhausted, nothing can renew. The time seldom fails to come, when their reservoirs are entirely dried up, and the poor animal is left to all the chances of irretrievable necessity. An old spider is thus frequently reduced to the greatest extremity; its web is destroyed, and it wants the materials to make a new one. But as it has been long accustomed to a life of shifting, it hunts about to find out the web of another spider, younger and weaker than itself, with whom it ventures a battle. The invader generally

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