

pletely secured. If that be the case, he walks leisurely forward, seizes its prey, and instantly kills it by instilling a venomous juice into the wound which it makes. If, however, the fly be not fast, the spider patiently waits, without appearing till its prey has fatigued itself by its struggles to obtain its liberty; for should the ravager appear in all his terrors while the prey is but half involved, a desperate effort might give it force enough to get free. If the spider have fasted for a long time, it then drags the fly immediately into its hole and devours it; but if there have been plenty of game, and the animal be no way pressed by hunger, it then gives the fly two or three turns in its web, so as to completely secure it, and there leaves it impotently to struggle until the little tyrant comes to his appetite.

It has been the opinion of some philosophers, that the spider was in itself both male and female; but Lister has been able to distinguish the sexes, and to perceive that the males were much less in size than the females. As most of these insects prey upon each other, except during the time of their amours, they dare not come within reach of one another but with the utmost caution. They may sometimes be  
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