

Instead of creeping at the bottom of a brook, it soars into the airy regions.

As this insect haunts and seeks after its food while flying in the air, Nature has provided it with two large eyes, which make almost the whole head, and which resemble glittering mother-of-pearl. It has also four expansive silver-coloured wings, with which it can turn itself with prodigious velocity, and to assist these it is furnished with a very long body, which, like a rudder, directs its motions. As the wings are long and the legs short, they seldom walk, but are constantly seen either resting or flying: for this reason they always choose dry branches of trees or shrubs to remain on, where they stay but a little time, being soon refreshed, and then again renew their flight.

Thus they are seen, adorning the summer with a profusion of beauty, lightly traversing the air in a thousand directions, and expanding the most beautiful colours to the sun. The garden, the forest, the hedges, and the rivulets, are animated by their sports; and there are few who have been brought up in the country, who have not employed a part of their childhood in pursuit of them.