

the wood-louse is too nimble, and runs up the sides of the pit-fall before the other is ready to seize it. The lion-ant has then another contrivance, still more wonderful than the former; for, by means of its broad head and feelers, it has a method of throwing up a shower of sand, which falling upon the struggling captive, crushes it again to the bottom.

When the insect has once fallen thus low, no efforts can retrieve or release it; the lion-ant seizes it with its feelers, which are hollow, and darting them both into its body, sucks out all the little animal's juices with the utmost rapacity. The prey being reduced to a husk, the next care of the murderer is to remove the body from its cell; seemingly as if fearful that the appearance of dead carcasses should caution others of the danger of the place; taking, therefore, the wasted trunk up with its feelers, it throws it with wonderful strength, at least six inches from the edge of its hole, and then patiently sets about mending the injuries its fortifications may have received during the engagement. Nothing can abate the industry, vigilance, patience, or rapacity of this little animal; it will work for a week together to make its pit-fall; it will continue upon the watch for more than a month,