

requires. One of these being put into a basin of water in which were thirty or forty worms of the libellula kind, each as large as itself, it destroyed them all in a few minutes, getting on their backs and piercing through their bodies with its trunk. These animals, however, though so formidable to others, are themselves greatly over-run with a little kind of louse, about the size of a nit, which, to all appearance, repays the injury which they inflict upon others. These insects live in the water by day, out of which they rise in the dusk of the evening into the air, and so flying from place to place often betake themselves, in quest of food, to other waters. It remains in the place where it was produced, until its wings are grown, but when come to its state of perfection it sallies forth in search of a companion of the other sex, in order to continue its kind.

The *Ephemera*, though not strictly belonging, seems more properly referred to this rank than any other. Indeed, as we have had repeated occasion to observe, it is in vain to attempt exactness in a history where Nature seems to take delight in sporting with variety.