

Flutterings. . But all these sports are shortly to have an end; the little strangers live but an hour or two; in that short space the whole swarm falls to the ground, and covers the earth, like a deep snow for several hundred yards on each side of the river. They are of a most delicate nature; the slightest touch is fatal to them; if they even hit against each other they instantly die.

At this time the males and females are very differently employed. The males, quite inactive, and apparently without desires, seem only born to die: unlike those of other insects, they neither follow the opposite sex, nor bear any enmity to each other: after fluttering for an hour or two, they drop on the land, and conclude their existence. It is otherwise with the females: they have scarcely risen from the surface of the water, and dried their wings, but they hasten back again to deposit their eggs: if they happen to flutter upon land, they leave their burden in the place where they drop.

This appears to be one of, if not the most prolific of all insects; and it would seem that there was a necessity for such a supply, as in its reptile state, it is the favourite food of every kind of fresh-water fish. It is in vain that  
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