

sible; but in so soft a state, that the smallest touch can discompose them. The animal now becomes helpless and motionless.

Immediately after being stripped of its caterpillar skin, it is of a green colour, especially in those parts which are distended by an extraordinary afflux of animal moisture; but in ten or twelve hours after being thus exposed, its parts harden, and the air forms its external covering into a hard crust. From the beautiful and resplendent colour, with which it is thus sometimes adorned, some authors have called it a chrysalis, implying a creature made of gold.

The *butterfly* does not continue so long under the form of an aurelia, as one would be apt to imagine. In general, those caterpillars that provide themselves with cones, continue within them but a few days after the cone is completely finished. Some, however, remain buried in this artificial covering for eight or nine months, without taking the smallest sustenance during the whole time: and though in the caterpillar state no animals are more voracious, yet when thus transformed, they appear a miracle of abstinence. In all, sooner or later, the butterfly bursts from its prison; not only that natural prison which is formed by the skin of the