

soon after, they expand so rapidly, that the eye can scarcely attend their unfolding, and almost in an instant appear five times longer than before.

Nor is it the wings alone that are thus increased : all their spots and paintings, before so minute as to be scarcely discernible, are proportionably extended ; so that, what a few minutes before seemed only a number of confused, unmeaning points, now become distinct and most beautiful ornaments.

The wing, at the instant it is freed from its confinement, is considerably thicker than afterwards ; so that it spreads in all its dimensions, growing thinner as it becomes broader. If one of the wings be plucked from the animal just set free, it may be spread by the finger, and it will soon become as broad as the other, which has been left behind. As the wings extend themselves so suddenly, they have not yet had time to dry ; and accordingly appear like pieces of wet paper, soft, and full of wrinkles. In about half an hour, they are perfectly dry, their wrinkles entirely disappear, and the little animal assumes all its splendor. Those which are enclosed within a cone find their emancipation somewhat more difficult, as they have another