

The butterflies, as well as the moths, employ the short life assigned them in a variety of enjoyments. Their whole time is spent either in quest of food, which every flower offers; or in pursuit of the female, whose approach they can often perceive at a very great distance. Their sagacity in this particular is not less astonishing than true; but by what sense they are thus capable of distinguishing each other at such distances is not easy to conceive. From whatever power it may arise, however, it is certain that the male may be often observed fluttering, and then taking wing, fly directly to a female who may be perched on a flower at two miles distance.

The general rule among insects is, that the female is larger than the male; and this obtains particularly in the tribe we are describing. The body of the male is more small and slender; that of the female more thick and oval. The eggs of the female butterflies are deposited in the body like a bed of chaplets; which, when excluded, are usually oval, and of a whitish colour: some, however, are quite round; and others flatted, like a turnip. The covering, or shell of the egg, though solid, is thin and transparent; and in proportion as the caterpillar grows within the
egg,