

Some of the caterpillar kind, that seem fitted to live only upon leaves and plants, will however, eat each other; and the strongest will devour the weak in preference to their vegetable food. That which lives upon the oak, is found to seize any of its companions, that it conveniently can, by the first rings, and inflict a deadly wound: it then feasts in tranquillity on its prey, and leaves nothing of the animal but the husk.

But it is not from each other that they have most to fear, as in general they are inoffensive; and many of this tribe are found to live in a sort of society. Many kinds of flies lay their eggs either upon, or within their bodies; and as these turn, into worms, the caterpillar is seen to nourish a set of intestine enemies within its body, that must shortly be its destruction: nature having taught flies, as well as all other animals, the surest methods of perpetuating their kind. "Towards the end of August," says Rheaumur, "I perceived a little fly, of a beautiful gold colour, busily employed in the body of a large caterpillar, of that kind, which feeds upon cabbage. I gently separated that part of the leaf on which these insects were placed, from the rest of the plant, and