

and buzz about, thus exciting a warmth which is often perceptible by laying the hand on the glass windows of the hive. They seem to understand one another by the motion of their wings. When the queen wants to quit the hive, she gives a little buzz; all the others immediately follow her example, and retire along with her.

There often happen among bees, either of the same, or of different hives, most deadly feuds, in which their stings are their chief weapons. In these contests, great skill may be discerned in the manner of pointing the sting between the scaly rings which cover their bodies, or to some other vulnerable part. The bee which first gains the advantage remains the conqueror; though the victory costs the victor his life, if he has left his sting in the body of the enemy; for, with the sting, so much of the body is torn out, that death inevitably follows. Bees have very severe conflicts when whole hives engage in a pitched battle, and many are slain on both sides. Thorley thinks their fighting and plundering one another ought chiefly to be imputed either to their perfect abhorrence of sloth and idleness, or to their insatiable thirst for honey; for when, in spring or autumn, the weather