

paste is removed to the mouth of the habitation. The animal's provision of liquor in these operations is however soon exhausted; and it is then seen taking up water from some neighbouring flower, or stream, in order to supply the deficiency.

At length after much toil, a hole some inches deep is formed, at the bottom of which is a large cavity; and to this no other hostile insect would venture to find its way, from the length and narrowness of the defile through which it would be obliged to pass. In this the solitary wasp lays its eggs, which is destined to continue the species: there the nascent animal is to continue for above nine months, unattended and immured, and, at first appearance the most helpless insect of the creation. But when we come to examine, new wonders offer: no other insect can boast so copious and luxurious a provision, or such confirmed security.

As soon as the mother-wasp has deposited her egg at the bottom of the hole, her next care is to furnish it with a supply of provisions, which may be offered to the young insect as soon as it leaves the egg. To this end she procures a number of little green worms, generally from eight to twelve, and these are to

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