

kinds they are particularly fond of. They seldom, however, think of their community, till they are first satisfied themselves. Having found a juicy fruit, they swallow what they can, and then, tearing it in pieces, carry home their load. If they meet with an insect above their match, several of them will fall upon it at once, and having mangled it, each will carry off a part of the spoil. If they meet in their excursions, with any thing that is too heavy for one to bear, and yet, which they are unable to divide, several of them will endeavour to force it along; some dragging and others pushing. If any of them happen to make a lucky discovery, it will immediately give notice to others; and then, at once, the whole republic will put themselves in motion. If in these struggles, one of them happen to be killed, some kind survivor will carry him off to a great distance, to prevent the obstructions his body may give to the general spirit of industry.

But while they are thus employed in supporting the state, in feeding abroad, and carrying in provisions to those that continue at home, they are not unmindful of posterity. After a few days of fine weather, the female ants begin to lay their eggs, and those are assiduously