

the severity of the season. In a fine day they remove them, with the same care, nearer the surface, where their maturity may be assisted by the warm beams of the sun. If a formidable enemy should happen to batter down their whole habitation; and crush them by thousands in the ruin, yet these wonderful insects, still mindful of their parental duties, make it their first care to save their offspring. They are seen running wildly about, different ways, each loaded with a young one, often bigger than the insect that supports it. "I have kept," says Swammerdam, "several of the working  
"ants in my closet, with their young, in a glass  
"filled with earth. I took pleasure in observ-  
"ing, that in proportion as the earth dried on  
"the surface, they dug deeper and deeper to  
"deposit their eggs; and when I poured wa-  
"ter thereon, it was surprising to see with  
"what care, affection, and diligence they la-  
"boured, to put their brood in safety, in the  
"driest place. I have seen also, that when  
"water has been wanting for several days, and  
"when the earth was moistened after it a lit-  
"tle, they immediately carried their young  
"ones to have a share; who seemed to enjoy  
"and suck the moisture."