

becomes of her when thus divested of her ornaments is not well known; for she is seen in the cells some weeks after. The males, on the other hand; having no longer any occupation at home, make use of those wings with which they have been furnished by nature, and fly away, never to return, or to be heard of more. It is probable that they perish with cold, or are devoured by the birds, which are particularly fond of this petty prey.

In the mean time, the working ants having probably deposed their queens, and being deserted by the males, which served but to clog the community, prepare for the severity of the winter, and bury their retreats as deep in the earth as they conveniently can. It is now found, that the grains of corn, and other substances with which they furnish their hills, are only meant as fences to keep off the rigours of the weather, not as provisions to support them during its continuance. It is found generally that every insect that lives a year after it is come to its full growth, is obliged to pass four or five months without taking any nourishment, and will seem to be dead all that time. It would be to no purpose, therefore, for ants to lay up corn for the winter, since they lie during that time without motion, heaped upon each other, and