

structed with great artifice; and the cells are so numerous and even, that a honey-comb scarcely exceeds them in number and regularity.

The inhabitants of this edifice seem to be under a very strict regulation. At the slightest warning they will sally out upon whatever disturbs them; and if they have time to arrest their enemy, he is sure to find no mercy. Sheep, hens, and even rats, are often destroyed by these merciless insects, and their flesh devoured to the bone. No anatomist in the world can strip a skeleton so clean as they; and no animal, however strong, when they have once seized upon it, has power to resist them.

It often happens that these insects quit their retreat in a body, and go in quest of adventures.

“ During my stay,” says Smith, “ at Cape
“ Corse Castle, a body of these ants came to
“ pay us a visit in our fortification. It was
“ about day-break when the advanced guard
“ of this famished crew entered the chapel,
“ where some negroe servants were asleep upon
“ the floor. The men were quickly alarmed
“ at the invasion of this unexpected army, and
“ prepared as well as they could for a defence.

“ While