

pliant nature, gives them an opportunity of sinking a retreat for themselves, where nothing but the claws of a cray-fish can possibly molest them. The worm afterwards changes its form. It appears with a large head, and a tail invested with hair, and moistened with an oleaginous liquor, which she makes use of as a cork, to sustain her head in the air, and her tail in the water, and to transform her from one place to another. When the oil with which her tail is moistened begins to grow dry, she discharges out of her mouth an unctuous humour, which she sheds all over her, by virtue whereof she is enabled to transport herself where she pleases, without being either wet, or any way incommoded by the water.

The gnat, in her next state, being divested of her second skin, resigns her eyes, her antennæ, and her tail; in short, she actually seems to expire. However, from the spoils of the amphibious animal, a little winged insect appears. Its head is adorned with a plume of feathers, and its whole body invested with scales and hair. The fur below, or little border of fine feathers, which graces its wings, is very curious; but there is nothing of greater importance to the gnat, than its trunk; and that
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