
HUMMING BIRD.

OF all animated beings the humming bird is the most elegant in its form, and the most brilliant in its colours. Stones and metals polished by art are not to be compared to this jewel in nature; she has placed it, in the order of birds, upon the lowest step of bulk, *maximé miranda in minimis*: her *chef d'œuvre* is the small humming bird; she has bestowed upon it all those gifts which she has only distributed in part to other birds; celerity, rapidity, grace, rich ornament, all are to be found in this little favourite. The emerald, the ruby, the topaz, all are to be seen in the brilliant colours of its plumage; it never sullies these colours by the dust of the earth, and, in its existence, purely aerial, it is hardly seen to touch the flowery turf, even for a moment; it is always in the air flying from flower to flower; it possesses their freshness and their splendour, it lives upon their nectar, and is to
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