

every ant which it chances to meet. Each ant, on receiving this intimation, immediately sets about repeating the same signal to the next ant which come in its way; and the alarm is thus disseminated with astonishing rapidity throughout the whole society. Sentinels are at all times stationed on the outside of the nests, for the purpose of apprizing the inhabitants of any danger that may be at hand. On the attack of an enemy, these guardians quickly enter into the nest, and spread the intelligence on every side: the whole swarm is soon in motion, and while the greater number of ants rush forwards with desperate fury to repel the attack, others who are intrusted with the office of guarding the eggs and the larvæ, hasten to remove their charge to places of greater security.

When the queen bee is forcibly taken away from the hive, the bees which are near her at the time do not soon appear sensible of her absence, and the labours of the hive are carried on as usual. It is seldom before the lapse of an hour, that the working-bees begin to manifest any symptoms of uneasiness: they are then observed to quit the larvæ which they had been feeding, and to run about in great agitation, to and fro, near the cell which the queen had occupied before her abduction. They then move over a wider circle, and on meeting with such of their companions as are not aware of the disaster, communicate the intelligence by crossing their antennæ, and striking lightly with them. The bees which receive the news become, in their turn, agitated, and conveying this feeling wherever they go, the alarm is soon participated by all the inhabitants of the hive. All rush forwards with tumultuous precipitation, eagerly seeking their lost queen; but after continuing the search for some hours, and finding it to be fruitless, they appear resigned to their misfortune; the noisy tumult subsides, and the bees quietly resume their labours.

A bee, deprived of its antennæ, immediately becomes dull and listless: it desists from its usual labours, remains at the bottom of the hive, seems attracted only by the light, and