

in one numerous tribe,* the moths and butterflies; they rival the birds, and even exceed them, both in the brilliancy of the little plumes, or rather *scales*, which clothe the wings, and the variety of the pattern figured upon them, and likewise of their forms and arrangement. So that every one, who minutely examines them in this respect with an unbiassed mind, can hardly help exclaiming,—I trace the hand and pencil of an Almighty Artist, and of one whose understanding is infinite, and who is, in himself, the archetype of all symmetry, beauty, and grace!

The wings of a variety of insects, though few, save the *Lepidoptera*, are ornamented with scales, are planted with little *bristles*, more or less numerous or dispersed; these Chabrier thinks, as well as the scales now alluded to, amongst other uses, are means of fixing the air in flight, as well as augmenting the surfaces, and points of arrest, in each wing.† They also strengthen the wing and add to its weight, and doubtless have other uses not so easily ascertained. Hair, in scripture, is denominated *power*, and probably those fluids, which we can neither weigh nor coerce, find their passage into the body of the animal, or out of it, by these little conductors; and thus the various piligerous, plumigerous, pennigerous, and squamigerous animals, may offer points and paths, not only to the air, but to more subtile fluids, either going or coming, whose influences introduced into the system, may add a momentum to all the animal forces, or which, having executed their commission and become neutralized, may thus pass off into the atmosphere.

But of all the winged animals which God has created and given it in charge to traverse the atmosphere, there is none comparable to the great and interesting Class of *birds*, which, emulating the insects on one side by their diminutive size

* *Lepidoptera*.

† Sur le Vol des Ins. 24.