

by producing atmospheric pressure by the adhesion of suckers, but by a brush, formed of "slender bristles, fringed on each side with exceeding fine hairs, gradually diminishing in length as they approach its extremity, where they occur in such profusion as to form a thick brush on its inferior surface."* These brushes he first discovered on a living specimen of the *bird-spider*,† and the same structure, as far as his researches were carried, he found in those spiders which can walk against gravity and up glass. This is one of the modes by which they take hold with their hands, and thus they ascend walls, and set their snares in the palace as well as the cottage. Whoever examines the under-side of the last joint or digit of the foot of this animal with a common pocket-lens, will see that it is clothed with a very thick brush, the hairs of which, under a more powerful magnifier, appear somewhat hooked at the apex; in some species this brush is divided longitudinally, so as to form two.

But the organs that are more particularly connected with the weaving and structure of the snares of the spiders are most worthy of attention. Setting aside the hunters,‡ and others that weave no snares to entrap their prey, I shall consider those I intend to notice, under the usual names of *weavers*§ and *retiaries*||

Before Mr. Blackwall turned his attention to the proceedings of these ingenious and industrious animals, it had not been ascertained, in what respect their modes of spinning their webs, and the organs by which they formed their respective manufactures, differed. But Mr. Blackwall, whose observations were principally made upon one of the weavers¶ which frequents the holes and cavities of walls, and

* Blackwall in Linn. Trans. xvi. 481. t. xxxi. f. 5.

† *Mygale avicularia*.

‡ *Aranæ. venatoriæ*.

§ *A. textoriæ*.

|| *A. retiaræ*.

¶ *Clubiona atrox*.