

her; it can assume various shapes as occasions demand; it collects the honey from the nectar-organs of the flower; it tempers the wax for building, and prepares it for the action of the *mandibles*. With these last organs she works up the wax till it is fit for use. The plummy *hairs* of her body, especially in the humble-bees, are useful in detaining the dust of the anthers. Her *legs*, more particularly the posterior pair, though not used immediately in her structures, are extremely important organs, both for preparing her food, and the material with which she builds her palace. At the junction of the shank with the first joint of the foot of this pair, a kind of *forceps* is formed, by the angle, at the apex of the former and the base of the latter, with which the bee takes a plate of wax from the wax-pockets under her abdomen, and delivers it to the anterior pair of legs, by which it is submitted to the action of the mandibles. The *shanks* of the posterior legs likewise on their upper side have a cavity surrounded with hairs, which form a kind of basket, in which the diligent labourer carries a mass of pollen, kneaded by the aid of the comb at the end of the shank into a paste, which is deposited in the cells, and contributes to form the family store of provision.

What a number of compensating contrivances does this single animal exhibit, and how wonderfully and admirably has Supreme Wisdom and Goodness contrived for her, and Almighty Power given full effect to what they planned! Nothing is superfluous in her, every hair and every angle has its use; so that well may we adore Him who created the honey-bee, and at whose bidding, and by whose instruction, she erects those wonderful edifices that have been the admiration of every age.\*

Instinct directs many animals, as well as traversing the surface of the earth, to seek a subterranean abode within

\* See Bochart, Hierozoic. ii. 515. a.