

of the tree-hopper* prevails ; and you cannot take a step, or touch a leaf, without putting insects to flight. At 11 A.M. the heat is become insupportable, and all animated nature becomes torpid—the noise diminishes—the insects and other animals disappear, and are seen no more till the evening. Then, when the atmosphere is again cool, to the matin species succeed others, whose office it is to embellish the nights of the torrid zone. I am speaking of the glow-worms‡ and fire-flies;‡ whilst the former, issuing by myriads from their retreats, overspread the plants and shrubs; the latter crossing each other in all directions, weave in the air, as it were, a luminous web, the light of which they diminish or augment at pleasure. This brilliant illumination only ceases when the night gives place to the day.

As during our winters, some part of the insect population occasionally appear and dance in the sunbeam, so in Brazil, according to M. Lacordaire, during the months of May, June, July, and August, the season of great drought, when all nature is embrowned, and consequently affording no proper food for perfect insects; the caterpillars of *Lepidoptera* are those mostly to be met with, while in the rainy season those only that live in society occur.

The great object of the Creator appears to be the employment of the various tribes of animals, to do the work for which he created them at its proper season; and where the object is particularly to keep within due limits the growth of plants, or to remove dead or putrescent substances before they generate *miasmata*, we may conjecture, that when their services are not wanted, they would be allowed a season of repose, so that during winter with us, when there is little or no vegetation of the plant, and a hot

* *Tettigonia*. Cicada, &c.

† *Lampyrus*. *Pygolampis*. K.

‡ *Elater noctilucus*, &c.