

insects: when its meal was finished, it would re-enter its habitation, and pull down the lid with one of its claws. He further observes, that to discover their habitations when the lid is down, from its being so accurately fitted to the aperture, was very difficult.

Though the particulars I have here stated, of the history and habits of these subterranean spiders, demonstrate, in every respect, as far as we know them, the adaptation of means to an end, far above the intelligence of the animal that exhibits them; yet fully to appreciate the Wisdom, and Power, and Goodness that fabricated her, and instigated her to exercise these various arts, and to employ her power of spinning webs, in building the structures necessary for her security, as well as for the capture of her prey, we ought to be witnesses to all her proceedings, which would probably instruct us more fully why she forms so deep a tube, and one so nicely covered with a peculiar tapestry from the mouth to the bottom. One of these ends is, doubtless, to keep her tube dry.

2. Various are the modes of capturing their prey, exercised by the *second* Tribe of spiders, which have only *two* gills, some fabricating webs of various kinds for that purpose, and others lying in wait for them, and catching them by mere agility. The first of these are called *weavers*,* and the last, *hunters*.†

Some of the former construct silken tubes of an irregular texture, open at both ends, in which they conceal themselves. Of this description is one, remarkable for having only six eyes,‡ which sits at the mouth of her tube, with her four anterior legs out of it, reposing by their extremity upon as many fine threads, which diverge from the mouth of the tube as from a centre, and probably contribute to form the toils, or are connected with them, which De Geer observed her

* Araneidæ textoriæ.

† A. venatoriæ.

‡ Segestria senoculata.