

the back, in the common species, presents a cavity, which terminates posteriorly in a kind of pouch,* so that the head can be thrown back and its extremity received by it. From this situation, it is evident that the animal cannot take its nutriment from the bat in the ordinary position, with the back upwards; it must, therefore, necessarily stand with it downwards when engaged in suction. When under the forming hand of the Almighty Creator, its legs were planted, it was not on the *lower* side of the trunk, as they usually are in other hexapods, but on the *upper* side or margin of that part.† Colonel Montague observes,—“So strange and contradictory to experience is the formation of this insect, that were it not for the structure of the legs, no one could doubt that the upper was actually the under part of the body.‡ From the account given by the last acute and indefatigable naturalist, the motions of this little creature are so rapid as to be almost like flight, and it can fix itself in an instant wherever it pleases. Putting some into a phial, their agility was inconceivable; not being able, like other Dipterous insects, to walk upon the glass, their efforts were confined to laying hold of each other, and during the struggle they appeared flying in circles.”§

Their head is furnished with antennæ and feelers; immediately below the insertion of the former, on each side, is a slightly prominent eye, so that they have sight to guide them in their motions, which the *bat-mite* appears to be without.

I may conclude this account with the pious reflection of the worthy author lately mentioned. The very singular structure of this insect, which, at first, appears to be a strange deformity in nature, and excites our astonishment, will, like all other creatures, constructed by the same Omni-

* N. Verpertilionis.

† N. D. D'Hist. Nat. xxxiii. 131, 132.

‡ Linn. Tr. xi. 12.

§ Ibid. 13.