

those who have studied them, to be beneficial to the animals they attack.* Another tribe of this Order, the *flesh-flies*,† lay their eggs on dead bodies, and soon remove those nuisances, and the putrid and pestilential miasmata which they occasion, from the face of our globe. This function is of such importance to the welfare of our species; that some of these *flies*, in order that no time may be lost, are viviparous,‡ and bring forth their young in a state in which they can begin their work as soon as they are born.

The *aphidivorous flies*§ have another function, in conjunction with the *lace-winged flies*,|| *lady-birds*,¶ and some other insects, to reduce and keep within due limits the infinite myriads of the *plant-lice*,** which, in these climates, are the universal pests of the garden, the orchard, and the field. There are also flies†† that lay their eggs in the combs of *humble-bees*, which, as it were, wear their livery; for the hairs that clothe their body are so disposed and coloured, as to imitate that of the bee, whose nests they frequent; so that, probably, they are often mistaken for members of the family, and effect their mischief unmolested.

Another tribe of flies, called *hornet-flies*,‡‡ with some others related to them,§§ like a hawk or other predaceous bird, seize their prey with their legs, or their beak,||| but it can only be with the view of sucking its juices, as they have no masticating organs.

Dipterous insects, however, are not confined to *animal* food, whether living or putrescent, many also subsist upon a *vegetable* diet. Mushrooms and other agarics sometimes

* The species of gad-flies here alluded to are *Gastus Equi*, and *Æstrus Bovis*, *Æ. Ovis* and *Æ. Hominis*.

† *Sarcophaga*.

‡ *Musca carnaria*.

§ *Syrphus*, &c.

|| *Hemerobius*.

¶ *Coccinella*.

** *Aphides*.

†† *Volucella*, &c.

‡‡ *Asilus*.

§§ *Empis*.

||| *Introd. to Ent. i. 274.*