

swarm with the grubs of certain flies or gnats;\* others pass their first states in decaying timber; the narcissus and onion flies† feast upon the bulbs from which they take their name; and a little gnat,‡ when a grub, feeds upon the pollen of the flowers of the wheat.

To these may be added those flies that, in their first state, may be regarded as purifiers of stagnant waters, and other offensive fluids or semi-fluids. The larves of the *gnat* or mosquito are aquatic animals which may be seen either suspended at the surface, or sinking in most stagnant waters, compensate in some degree, for the torment of their blood-thirsty attacks, by discharging this function, and assisting to cleanse our stagnant waters from principles that might otherwise generate infection. A variety of others contribute their efforts to bring about the same beneficial purpose. Almost all the *Diptera*, in their perfect state, even the blood-suckers, emulate the bees, in imbibing the nectar from the various flowers with which God has decorated the earth, and thus assist in keeping within due limits, the—otherwise suffocating—sweets that they exhale.

From the statement here given, we see that the Creator has provided the members of this Order with a very diversified bill of fare, and that their efforts in their several states, and various departments, are of the first importance, as scavengers and depurators, to remove or mitigate nuisances that would otherwise deform and tend to depopulate our globe. What they want in volume, is compensated for by numbers; for perhaps the *individuals* of no Order are so numerous. It is true, in particular periods, the locust and aphides seem to outnumber them; yet, ordinarily, the two-winged race are those which everywhere most force themselves upon our

\* *Mycetophila*, &c.

† *Eristalis Narcissi*, and *Scatophaga Ceparum*.

‡ *Cecidomyia Tritici*.