

assist the *Lepidoptera* in their office. The caterpillars, which infest many species of willow, are hatched from the eggs of the *saw-flies*; * one genus, † nearly related to them, confines itself to timber, to which it is sometimes very destructive.

Another tribe affect plants in a very remarkable manner. Their egg-placer, like a magician's wand, is gifted with the privilege, by a slight puncture in the twig or leaf of any shrub or tree, or the stalk of any plant, to cause the production of a wonderful and monstrous excrescence, sometimes resembling moss, as in the Bedeguar of the rose, at other times, a kind of apple, or a transparent berry, both of which seeming fruits, the oak—when touched by two of these little gall-flies of different species—produces, as well as acorns: various other forms ‡ their galls assume, which need not be here mentioned. It is to be observed that the eggs of these gall-flies grow after they are laid, and perhaps these singular productions are more favourable to their growth, being softer and more spongy and succulent than the twigs themselves would be. Even here Creative Power, Wisdom, and Goodness are conspicuously manifested in providing such wonderful nests for these little germ-like eggs; these excrescences, indeed, instead of deforming the plants they are produced from, are often ornamental to them; and, besides this, are also, some of them, of the highest utility to mankind—witness the Aleppo oak-gall, § to which learning, commerce, the arts, and every individual who has a distant friend, are so deeply indebted.

Another tribe is equally useful in a different department: I allude to those Hymenoptera that are parasitic upon other Insects, particularly upon the destructive hordes of caterpillars that are often so injurious both to the horticulturist and agriculturist. These insects are denominated by La-

* *Cimbex*, *Tenthredo*, *Lyda*, &c. See *Introd. to Ent.* i. 255.

† *Sirex*.

‡ *Introd. to Ent.* i. 446.

§ *Cynips Scriptorum*.