

treille *Pupivorous*, not, as some may suppose, because they devour insects in their second or *pupe* state, but from the *classical* meaning of the word, because they devour them before they are arrived at their perfect or adult state. This tribe may be considered as divided into two great bodies, one represented by the *proper* Ichneumons of Linné, which have usually veined wings, and the abdomen connected with the trunk by a footstalk; the other forming the *Minute Ichneumons* of that great reviver of Natural History, distinguished usually by having wings with few or no veins on their disk, and by a sessile abdomen. These attack eggs and chrysalises, as well as caterpillars. Though the latter are the principal, yet they are not the only object of the great Ichneumonidan host, for they attack insects of every order indiscriminately; they seem, however, to annoy beetles, grasshoppers, bugs, and froghoppers, less than others. They may with great propriety be called *conservatives*, since they keep those under that would otherwise destroy us.* A little fly, before alluded to in these pages,† which appears very *destructive* to *wheat* when in the ear, is rendered harmless, by the goodness of Providence, by not less than three of these little benefactors of our race.‡

Connected with the subject of parasites is a singular history communicated to me by the Rev. F. W. Hope, one of the most eminent entomologists of the present day. In the month of August, 1824, in the nest of a species of *wasp*,§ he found more than fifty specimens of a singular little *beetle*, which may be called the *wasp-beetle*,|| long known to frequent wasps' nests. From their being found in cells which were closed by a kind of operculum, he conjectures that they lay their eggs in the grub of the wasp, upon which they doubt-

* Introd. to Ent. i. 267.

‡ Linn. Trans. v. 107.

|| Ripiphorus paradoxus.

† See above, p. 239.

§ Vespa rufa.