

less feed. Subsequently to this, upon opening some of the cells, he was surprised to find, instead of the beetles, several specimens of an Ichneumon belonging to Jurine's genus, *Anomalon*.\* Upon another examination, some days after this, no more of these last insects appearing, he discovered that they had been pierced, in their chrysalis state, by a minute species belonging to the family of *Chalcididans*, of which he found no less than twenty specimens flying about in search of their prey.

“From the above facts,” Mr. Hope remarks, “we have a convincing proof, if such were wanted, of a Superintending Power, which ordains checks and counterchecks to remedy the superfecundity of the insect world.” First, the wasp, a great destroyer of flies and various other insects, and often a troublesome pest and annoyance to man himself, is prevented from becoming too numerous, amongst other means, by the wasp-beetle; then, lest it should reduce their numbers so as to interfere with their efficiency, this last is kept in check by the *Amomalon*, which, in its turn, that it may obey the law, *Thus far shalt thou come, and no further*, becomes the prey of another devourer. Mr. Hope observed, and the fact is curious, that the specimens of the wasp-beetle obtained from the *female* wasps were about one-third larger than the others.

But of all the Hymenopterous, or indeed any other, Insects, there are none, as I before observed, that illustrate the primary attributes of the Deity more strikingly than those that are *gregarious*, which build for the members of their societies spacious colleges, if I may so call them, capable often of containing many thousand inhabitants, and remarkable for the pains they bestow upon the nurture and education of their young. There are three

\* Latreille is of opinion that this is not a natural genus. N. D. D'H. N. ii. 128.