

are derived from their skill and labour—true emblems of honest industry.

I shall merely mention the humble-bee,* and their subterranean habitations, which are of a much ruder architecture than those of the hive-bee: the cells, however, are made of a coarse kind of wax, but placed very confusedly, nor exhibiting the geometrical precision observable in the latter.†

I may here observe that all insects of this Order, in their perfect state, imbibe the nectar from the flowers, but none, the hive and humble-bees and one species of wasp excepted, with the view of storing it up for future use.

The last Hymenopterous tribe‡ includes the *ants*, and is almost equally interesting with the preceding one, for the wonderful industry of the animals just mentioned. They are universal collectors; every thing that comes in their way, whether animal or vegetable, living or dead, answers their purpose; and the paths to their nests are always darkened with the busy crowds that are moving to and fro. Their great function seems to be to remove every thing that appears to be out of its place, and cannot go about its own business. I have seen several of them dragging a half-dead snake, about the size of a goose-quill. They do not, however, like the bees, usually store up provisions, but they will imbibe sweet juices from fruits, and also from the plant-lice, which may be called their cows.§ However, almost all their cares and labour are connected with the nurture and sustenance of their young.

I am indebted to the kindness of Lieutenant-Colonel Sykes, of the Bombay army—well known for the zeal and ability with which he investigated the animal productions

* *Introductio ad Entomologiam*, ii. Lett. xviii.

† See *Linnæi Opera*, vi. t. xxvii.

‡ *Heterogyna*. Latr. See *Introductio ad Entomologiam*, i. 476—481. ii. Lett. xvii.

§ *Ibid.* ii. 87—91.