

mitted themselves to the deep, to have scrambled across the channel, and to have reached the object of their desires, for hundreds we found every morning revelling in enjoyment: daily vengeance was executed upon them without lessening their numbers; at last the legs of the table were painted, just above the water, with a circle of turpentine. This at first seemed to prove an effectual barrier, and for some days the sweets were unmolested, after which they were again attacked by these resolute plunderers; but how they got at them seemed totally unaccountable, till Colonel Sykes, who often passed the table, was surprised to see an ant drop from the wall, about a foot above the table, upon the cloth that covered it; another and another succeeded. So that, though the turpentine and the distance from the wall appeared effectual barriers, still the resources of the animal, when determined to carry its point, were not exhausted, and by ascending the wall to a certain height, with a slight effort against it, in falling it managed to land in safety upon the table. Col. Sykes asks,—Is this instinct? I should answer, No: the animal's appetite is greatly excited, its scent probably informs it where it must seek the object of its desire; it first attempts the nearest road; when this is barricaded it naturally ascends the walls near which the table was placed, and so succeeds by casting itself down,—all the while under the guidance of its senses.\*

It is observed, in the *Introduction to Entomology*, that though ants, “during the cold winters, in this country, remain in a state of torpidity, and have no need of food, yet in warmer regions, during the rainy seasons, when they are probably confined to their nests, a store of provisions may be necessary for them.† Now, though the rainy

\* See above, p. 175, 203, and *Introd. to Ent.* ii. 62.

† *Ibid.* 46.