

the case in Palestine, provision for the future is not stored up solely by the bees; but the ants, where it is necessary, are gifted with the same admirable instinct.

A circumstance here requires notice, which is almost peculiar to the gregarious Hymenoptera dwelling in a common habitation; in all their communities, besides one or more *prolific* females and males, there is an order of sterile females, which have no connection with the other sex, and are solely employed in labours and pursuits beneficial to the community at large to which they belong, especially the care and nurture of the young.

The wisdom and beneficial effects of this law, by which the Creator has regulated their communities, and prescribed to all their duties and functions, must be evident to every one. It sets free the majority of the community to give their whole attention to those labours upon which the welfare and existence of their several associations depend. Indeed, if they were all to be prolific, their societies would soon be dissolved, or destroyed by the evils attendant upon an overabundant population; or their increase would be so rapid, that the whole earth would soon be covered by them, to the great annoyance, if not destruction, of the rest of its inhabitants.

Now I am upon this subject, I may add a few remarks upon the kindred societies of *white-ants*, which, though they belong to a different Order, are, in many respects, analogous to those of the true *ants*; and the differences observable between them arise from a marked diversity in the nature of their metamorphosis: namely, that in the last named insects, both larves and pupes are incapable of locomotion, and all the labours of the society, as well as its defence and the care and nurture of the young, are devolved upon a description of its members that are not gifted with the faculty of reproduction: whereas, in the former, the white