

ants, the larves and pupes, in conformity to the law which, in this respect, regulates the Class to which they belong, are locomotive and more active in those states than in the last or reproductive one, and are therefore fully qualified to act in all the working departments, and to transact the general business of the society ; but as this, in their case, required a conformation of the head and oral organs inconsistent with their use as offensive weapons, another order was necessary to act as sentinels, and to be entrusted with the defence of the nest or termitary, as it is called, and its inhabitants. That such an order exists, we learn from the statements of Smeathman and Latreille, who, both of them, had means of personal investigation, and the latter of whom brought to the investigation the deepest insight into his subject, and the most extensive knowledge of insects and their history possessed by any man in Europe. Upon the accuracy of his statements, therefore, the most entire reliance may be placed. The species* he investigated was discovered by himself, in the neighbourhood of Bordeaux, inhabiting the trunks of firs and oaks, immediately under the bark, where, without attacking the bark itself, they formed a great number of holes and irregular galleries. In these societies he discovered, at all times, *two* kinds of individuals, which were without wings, elongated, soft, of a yellowish white, with their head, trunk, and abdomen distinct ; they were active, furnished with six legs, their head large, and the eyes very small, or altogether wanting ; but, in one of these kinds of individuals, which compose the bulk of the society, the head is rounded and the mandibles not extended ; while in the others, which form not more than one twenty-fifth of the population, the head is much larger, elongated, and cylindrical, and terminated by mandibles that extend from it and cross each other ; these Latreille always found stationed at

* *Termes lucifuga.*