

those of some of the lower tribes * of moths devour animal substance, such as wool, fur, leather, grease, and the like; some even enter the bee-hive and devour the combs, others the cabinet of the entomologist to prey upon his insects, others even attack the books of the scholar. Their office seems to be to keep in check too luxuriant vegetation, and, in many of the latter instances, the removing of dead animal matter, and everything putrescent from the surface of the globe.

But this is not the whole; they likewise help to maintain, as has been before observed, † half the birds of the air, forming a principal portion of their food; and in some countries, as well as the locusts and white ants, ‡ they are eagerly devoured by man himself. There is a certain mountain in New Holland, as we are informed by Mr. Bennett, § called Bugong mountain, from multitudes of small moths, called *Bugong* by the natives, which congregate at certain times, upon masses of granite, on this mountain. The months of November, December, and January, are quite a season of festivity amongst these people, who assemble from every quarter to collect these moths. They are stated also to form the principal summer food of those who inhabit to the south of the snow mountains. To collect these moths, or rather butterflies, || the natives make smothered fires under the rocks on which they congregate; and, suffocating them with smoke, collect them by bushels, and then bake them by placing them on heated ground. Thus they separate from them the down and the wings; they are then pounded and formed into cakes resembling lumps of fat, and often smoked, which preserves them for some time. When accustomed to this diet, they thrive and fatten

* Tineidæ.

† See above, p. 20.

‡ Introd. to Ent. i. 303, 307.

§ Wanderings, &c. i. 265.

|| *Euplœa hamata*. M'L.