

exceedingly upon it.* Millions of these animals were observed also, on the coast of New Holland, both by Captains Cook and King.† Thus has a kind Providence provided an abundant supply of food for a race that, subsisting solely by hunting or fishing, must often be reduced to great straits.

Orders 3 and 11.—The masticating tribe, which present the most striking analogy to the scaly-winged lepidopterous insects, is one of very different habits; mostly bold, rapacious, and sanguinary, they are perpetually chasing other insects, and devouring them: and this they do, not in one, but in all their states. I am speaking here of the Neuropterous Order, especially the dragon flies, those insects of vigorous wing and indomitable force. Every one who compares these with the Heliconian butterflies, the wings of which are sometimes, more or less, denuded of their scales,‡ will perceive that they are analogues of each other; and one of this Order, the *Ascalaphus*, resembles a butterfly so strikingly, both by its wings and antennæ, that it has been described as one by a very eminent entomologist.§ The Ant-lions, and lace-winged flies, in the port of their wings, resemble several moths; and the *Trichoptera*, an osculant Order, but still reckoned amongst the *Neuroptera* by Latreille, in its habit of clothing itself with a case made of various articles, imitate the clothes-moth, and others of that tribe, which invest themselves with cases made of wool, fur, and similar materials.

The dragon-flies in their two first states, by means of their wonderful mask,|| destroy a vast number of aquatic insects, and in their last an equal number in the air.

* Bennett, ubi supr. 271.

† Ibid. 209, note *.

‡ E. G. *Heliconius Quirina*, *Hippodamia*, &c.

§ Scopoli, see N. D. D'H. N. ii. 580.

|| Introd. to Ent. iii. 125.