

The *white ants*,\* and some kindred insects, like the ants, devour everything but metal that is exposed to their attacks, particularly timber. A deserted African village is soon removed by them, working under their covered ways; and, in tropical regions, a forest quickly springs up where a busy population ran to and fro a few years before. So that they are amongst the instruments in the hand of Providence, that the places deserted by man shall be restored again to the vegetable and animal races that were in possession before he cleared it for his own habitation. The white ants seem to connect this Order with the Hymenoptera by means of the common ants; which, however, as Colonel Sykes informs me, bear the most rooted enmity to them, and destroy them without mercy. In digging up some white ants' nests, in his garden, at Poona, he once found *two* queens in one cell, a remarkable anomaly in their history. In the course of the present year, I received a letter, signed P. T. Baddeley, inclosing a drawing and specimens, of a singular species of white ant, with a head precisely resembling that of an elephant, except that there was no representation of the tusks. The head, which is enormously large compared with the size of the animal, terminates in a long proboscis. Mr. Baddeley found it in great numbers about two years ago, under some teak timber; the only circumstance which he mentions of its habits.

*Orders 8 and 9.*—There are two Orders taking their food by suction, the *Homoptera* and *Hemiptera*, which perhaps should rather be regarded as *Sub-orders*, as Latreille considers them, and which were included by Linné in the same Order with the *Orthoptera* of modern entomologists, to which, in fact, they are contrasted more or less. I shall therefore consider them together.

\* Termes.