

but whatever be its object with respect to the animals themselves that are gifted with this faculty, they give man an opportunity of glorifying his Creator, not only for the starry heavens, but also for these little flying stars that render night so beautiful and so interesting, where they occur.

In considering the great Class of Insects with reference to their *office*, the first thing that strikes us is their infinite number, not only of individuals of the same species, but of different species and even genera, and the vast variety of forms and structures that they necessarily include. When we began the present subject, and, dipping under the waves of ocean, visited the vast world of waters, to survey their various inhabitants, even amongst those that can be seen only by the assisted eye, we saw no traces of such diversity; the number of *individuals*, it is true, were incalculable, but though they have been the objects of research, with so many inquirers, and for so long a period, the number of *species* known fall short of half a thousand, while the number of Insects already in cabinets are stated to be more than two hundred times that number, and even in our own country, more than *ten thousand* have been enumerated and named.

The momentum of so vast a body of animals, everywhere dispersed, and daily and hourly at work in their several departments, must be incalculable; and this momentum must be doubled by the circumstance that so singularly distinguishes a large proportion of them; I mean that the different periods of their existence are passed under different forms, during which they have quite different functions assigned them, and are fitted with different organs, being, when they are first disclosed from the egg, masticators of solid and grosser food, and in their last state imbibing nectareous fluids. The connection of the