

first is with the *leaves* of the plant, to them they are committed by the mother as soon as they are extruded from her matrix, and they supply them with their earliest and latest food; but when she is disclosed in all her beauty, dressed as it were in her bridal robes, the connection is between her and the *flower*, her lovely analogue, from them she imbibes the sweet fluid which their nectaries furnish, and now, instead of a devourer, she abstracts merely what is redundant, which, while it contributes to her own enjoyment and support, in the case of the bee, enriches man himself.

We behold, then, this immense army of devourers, varying so infinitely in their instincts, as well as their forms, supplying many animals with the whole of their subsistence, and forming a considerable portion of that of others, and feel convinced that Providence has not placed them in their position, and given them such a variety of organs, except with the view to some great general benefit to those animals amongst whom he has placed them; and this benefit is not so much perhaps the reducing the numbers of their own class within due limits, though that is a most important object, as removing nuisances, which would deform, or in any way infect the earth and its inhabitants. For this the Insect world is principally distinguished as to its functions. It consists of the scavengers of the earth, and the pruners of its too luxuriant productions.

With respect to ornament and pleasurable sensations, which were certainly the object of our beneficent Creator, as well as our profit and utility—next to the birds, nothing adds more to the life of the scene before us, during the diurnal hours, and even sometimes the nocturnal, than the vast variety of insects that are flying, running, and jumping about in all directions, all engaged in their