

ances for such fancies, there still remains in the history of animal instincts a vast mass of facts that are truly marvellous. Perhaps in nothing do these instincts seem more like perfected reason than in the construction of the habitations of animals. Who does not know what geometry as well as perfection of government there is in a beehive? Nor are they less striking in a vespiary. Indeed, the queen of the wasps is far more enterprising and energetic than the queen of the honey bees. For during the winter nearly all the wasps die, and the queen has to rear up an entirely new colony, and provide for them. But before autumn she not unfrequently rules over no less than 30,000 subjects — and all her own children. I must not, however, go into details on these points. But there is one fact connected with the history of bees, though not very relevant to my subject, which I mention for the special benefit of young men. Naturalists admit that the most satisfactory account of the instincts and habits of bees was furnished by the elder Huber, who constructed glass hives, and other apparatus, so that he could watch their movements. But of what use were glass hives to him? for he was stone blind. The mystery is easily explained. “He saw the bees,” says his biographer, “through the eyes of the admirable woman whom he married.” Now, I wish the young gentlemen who hear me to understand that it is no uncommon occurrence for a man to find his wife as great a blessing as a good pair of eyes.

The instincts of the spider are quite as remarkable as those of the bee, the wasp, and the ant. Though the most ferocious of all animals, she will fight with desperation in defence of her young; but when the cocoon containing them is torn from her, she will simulate death so perfectly, that her limbs may be torn off one by one, and yet she will show no