

fossils suggestive of a very different poetry from that which Pope elaborated from them in his well-known simile :—

‘ Pretty in amber to observe the forms  
Of hairs, or straws, or dirt, or grubs, or worms :  
The things, we know, are neither rich nor rare,  
But wonder how the mischief they got there !’

Fossil insects occur in both the Secondary and Palæozoic divisions, but rarely indeed in a state of sufficient entireness to enable the entomologist to distinguish their species. Even in classing them into families and genera, our best writers on the subject, such as the Rev. Mr. Brodie, confess that some of the number are very imperfectly made out. In the amber, on the contrary, even the most delicate ephemeræ that ever sported for a single summer evening in a forest glade, and then perished as the night came on, are preserved in a state of perfect entireness. In the amber of Prussia eight hundred different kinds of insects have been determined, most of them belonging to species, and even genera, that appear to be distinct from any now known ; while of the others, some are nearly related to indigenous species, and some seem identical with existing forms that inhabit the warmer climates of the south. From their great specific variety and abundance we may infer that insects then, as now, formed the most numerous division of the animal kingdom. Our entomologists reckon at the present time about eleven thousand species of recent British insects, —a number many times greater than that of all its other denizens of the animal kingdom united. You will scarce deem the riddle regarding the entombment of these fragile creatures in the amber, which so puzzled the poet, particularly a hard one : the process must have resembled that which we see going on in our pine-forests every summer. The little flutterers must have settled on the bleeding trunks of the *Pinus succinifer*, and stuck fast, and the after flow of the sap covered them over. They add an interesting fea-