

tinous secretion, which, on being deposited on glass, adheres firmly to it, and very soon acquires consistence and hardness by the action of the air.

Other caterpillars, which feed on trees, and have often occasion to descend from one branch to another, send out a rope made with the same material, which they can prolong indefinitely; and thus either suspend themselves at pleasure in the air, or let themselves down to the ground. They continue, while walking, to spin a thread as they advance, so that they can always easily retrace their steps, by gathering up the clew they have left, and reascend to the height from which they had allowed themselves to drop.

§ 6. *Imago, or Perfect Insect.*

THE process which nature has followed in the development of the structure of insects, has for its object the gradual hardening and consolidation of texture, and the union and concentration of organs; for we find that the segments which were at a distance from one another in the larva, are approximated in the perfect insect, and often closely tied together by ligaments; and in other cases, adjoining segments cohere so as to form but a single piece. Thus, the number of separate parts composing the solid fabric is considerably diminished. Other segments, again, fold inwardly, forming internal processes, and adding to the extent and complication of the skeleton.

The integuments of perfect insects, being designed to be permanent structures, are thicker and more rigid than those of their larvæ, and are formed of several layers, in which the component parts of the integuments of the larger animals may readily be distinguished. Their rigidity does not, like that of shells, arise from the presence of carbonate of lime; for they contain but a small proportion of this material: and whatever calcareous ingredient enters into their composition is in the form of phosphate of lime. In external appearance their texture approaches nearer to that