

As soon as the prey is disabled, preparations begin for its transportation. While the class, whose duty it is, are lacerating the flesh, and reducing it to a state proper for removal, others are engaged in clearing a path between the locality and their domicile; the whole under the conduct of individuals of the first class.

This stage of their operations is intensely interesting to the observer. The facility and rapidity with which these little creatures, without the aid of eyes, overcome mountain obstacles, is surprising beyond expression; the greater the difficulty, the greater their effort and perseverance. One is seen dragging along a straw or stick many times his own length and size; another grasping, rolling, then pushing along a stone far exceeding his own weight and bulk, and when his own power is not sufficient, calling in the aid of others, each knowing that a work is to be done, none idle, and every one doing promptly his part. At first, in the preparatory stage, there is apparently considerable confusion, the different classes commingled, running backwards and forwards, and many missing the direct way to their domicile. But soon the soldiers are seen moving about with great activity, evidently bringing the lines into order. After a while they arrange themselves at different distances, on both sides of the path. The laborers are then kept within, in two nearly right lines, one going and the other returning; while on the outside are guards and scouts, intent upon the approach of danger, and ready to give alarm.

The pupæ and prey are carried longitudinally under their body.

Their bite is severe, and differs from that of the soldiers among the Termites. The latter work their mandibles, which are flat, in a cross direction, like scissors. The former, with mandibles falcate, round and pointed, work them alternately from side to side, penetrating deeper at each stroke, till they meet beneath the flesh. So tenacious is their hold, that frequently it is broken only by a separation of the head from the body, and even, then the head will often continue to work its jaws beneath the flesh with undiminished force.

The degree of sagacity manifested by this insect in time of difficulty is very great. On one occasion, having been driven from their domicile by the application of fire, they congregated in vast numbers around and on the body of a neighboring tree. From the lower limbs, about four feet high, hung several chains or festoons of these insects, their jaws locked and their legs twined, one with another, till they reached the ground. One of these chains, on my arrival, was in the act of completion. Ant after ant descended gradually, lengthening it out till it reached the broad leaf of a plant (*Canna coccinea*) below. It then swung to and fro, in a breeze blowing strongly from the sea, which rendered it difficult for the terminal ant to secure his hold, and thus complete the desired communication. After a few unsuccessful trials, another ant of the same class (the soldiers) ascended the plant, and taking his stand on the leaf directly under the vibrating column, fixed his hind claws in the leaf, and raising his body on the apex of his abdomen, reached forth his fore legs, opened wide his jaws, and closed in with his fellow from above, thus completing the most curious ladder in the world. Another fact of great interest: should a stream of water of small extent, intercept their course, they will compass it, but if this be difficult, they will throw across a bridge of their own bodies, over which the main column marches with freedom and safety.

Another habit of equal interest may be here stated. A like assertion has been