

masters have littered while carrying in their booty. As soon as the passages are cleared, a large force is engaged in closing the entrance." Many more accounts of raids upon both black and yellow ants are given by Miss Treat, but the above will suffice to prove that slave making is a recognized "institution" among the red ants. The relative position of the masters and slaves seems to vary a good deal in the case of the species already referred to. The red ants (*F. sanguinea*) appear to bear a considerable share of the work of the community, and not to be entirely dependent upon the offices of their slaves; but the russet ants (*F. rufescens*) seem to be altogether above doing any kind of work for themselves, except when they are engaged in the military operations of attacking a nest of blacks—consequently, the entire work of the colony in their case devolves upon their slaves. Huber found by experiment that the russet ants would starve, if left to themselves, sooner than take the trouble to make use of food left conveniently within their reach. He relates that he "shut up thirty of these ants in a glazed box, supplying them with larvæ and pupæ of their own kind, with the addition of several negro pupæ, excluding very carefully all their slaves, and placing some honey in a corner of their prison. Incredible as it may seem, they made no attempt to feed themselves: and though at first they paid some attention to their larvæ, carrying them here and there, as if too great a charge they soon laid them down again; most of them died of hunger in less than two days, and the few that remained alive appeared extremely weak and languid. At length, commiserating their condition, he admitted a single negro; and this little active creature by itself re-established order, made a cell in the earth, collected the larvæ and placed them in it, assisted the pupæ that were ready to be developed, and preserved the life of the neuter rufescents that still survived."

It might be supposed that the lot of the enslaved ants was a very hard and cruel one, and that their bondage would be as distasteful to them as it usually is to human slaves. But it has been clearly shown by Westwood and others that it is quite unnecessary to bestow our compassion upon them, as the work they perform is exactly that for which they were made. The labours which the slaves undertake are not arbitrarily forced upon them by the fear of punishment, but are urged upon them by the instincts implanted within them. They would have worked precisely in the same manner and with the same industry and perseverance in their own nests as in that of their captors, and the labours are undertaken as willingly in the one case as in the other. They find themselves perfectly at home in the nest of their captors, and are in every respect on terms of equality with their masters. They have no other home but that to which they have been brought, and are no more to be pitied than our domestic animals that never have freedom.

As the slaves are always neuters, it is necessary that fresh supplies should be obtained as often as the demand for workers exceeds the available material; consequently raids have to be made for the purpose at frequent intervals during the season.

5.—HARVESTING ANTS.

From the middle of the last century until a few years ago, naturalists had agreed to doubt the ancient belief, dating from the days of Solomon, that ants show forethought and husbandry in the collection and storage of seeds and grains, because they had been unable to observe that anything of the kind was done. It is now, however, satisfactorily proved by the minute observations of competent persons, especially of Dr. Lincecum, in Texas, and Mr. Moggridge, in the south of France, that certain species of ants do exhibit the foresight and providence necessary for the storing of supplies of food to carry them through the wintry or rainy seasons.

Ancient authors abound in references to the harvesting operations of ants, which no doubt were quite familiar to them. There are, for instance, the well-known passages in the Book of Proverbs, where Solomon says (vi. 6-8):—"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest;" and again (xxx. 25):—"The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer." Horace, Virgil, Plautus, Hesiod and other classical authors, also have allusions to the foresight of the ant. Claudius Ælianus, who lived in the time of the Emperor Hadrian, gives a detailed

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