

COLOURED ILLUSTRATIONS.—II.

ON THE WATER: MORNING.

The life of water-fowl seems to us, more especially in sultry weather, about the most enjoyable that is given to the irresponsible animal creation. They find themselves at home in both elements, at least on if not exactly in the water and the land, returning at their free choice from the one to the other; some of them can also rise and take flight in the air. Among the various tenants of our Zoological Society's Gardens, none that we ever see look so contented, so easy, healthy, and happy. The duck, with her brood of ducklings, serenely navigating the placid shallows of a sequestered mere, in the first of two companion drawings by Mr. H. Arnold, has her lot cast in very pleasant places. Here grow the sedges, the tall reeds and rushes, the broad-bladed water-aloë, the floating water-lily, each harbouring a world of insects, to supply the birds, as well as the fishes, with abundance of food. Woe to the doomed tadpole, or swimming larva of some undeveloped fly, which chanceth to drift within reach of their greedy beaks at the hungry breakfast hour! Well it is for the swift dragonfly and the butterfly, that they, possessing the means of aerial locomotion, can escape the dangers which beset the surface of river and pool! There is peril here, as in the haunts of meaner insects, of worms, grubs, and caterpillars, amid the leaves of plants or burrowing in the soil of the field. All brute creatures, or nearly all, seem to live in a state of war upon each other; yet we doubt not that the sum total of animal pleasure is thereby augmented. Perhaps, after all, it is not such a terrible fate to be eaten. The worm, in any case, will have its revenge upon the bodies of the most highly organised races after death, without excepting imperial Man.

OVER THE WATER: EVENING.

Gallant sport for the kingfisher, darting with rapid strokes of his strong wings over the water this summer evening, and snatching his unwary prey, a minnow or gudgeon, as it rises to the dimpling surface, ignorant of the impending foe! This peaceful hour of closing day is exceedingly propitious to the capture of small aquatic game; and the kingfisher has as good a right to his supper as anybody else. His wife and children, or perhaps only his wife and her eggs, remain at home in a nest which he has made of fish-bones, in the forsaken hole of some dead-and-gone rat, about thirty yards up the river's bank. Good luck to him and his, for he is a fine, brave fellow! Indeed, we always like to catch a glimpse of him in our evening stroll beside the Avon, the Axe, or the Exe.

FOREIGN MAILS MADE UP IN LONDON.

Australia and New Zealand, via Southampton—Every fourth Thursday.
 Ditto, via Brindisi—Every fourth Friday.
 United States—Morning, Tuesday; evening, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.
 Canada, by Canadian Packet—Every Thursday evening.
 Canada, via United States—As United States.
 West Indies—2nd and 17th of each month.
 Brazil, via Southampton—9th of each month.
 Ditto, by French Packet—3rd and 18th of each month.
 Cape of Good Hope—5th, 15th, and 25th of each month.
 France and the Continent generally—daily, morning and evening.
 Mexico, via Southampton—2nd of each month.
 Ditto, via French Packet—18th of each month.
 India, via Brindisi—every Friday evening.
 Ditto, via Southampton—every Thursday morning.
 China and Japan, via Brindisi—evening of every alternate Friday.
 Ditto, via Southampton—every alternate Thursday.
 Ditto, via French Packet—morning and evening every alternate Friday.
 Ditto, via United States—every alternate Saturday from San Francisco.
 Ditto, via St. Petersburg and Pekin—evening, Monday, Friday.

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