

she recognises the desired plant the moment she approaches it, and upon this she places her precious burden; yet not without taking care to ascertain that it is not occupied by the eggs of some other butterfly. Having fulfilled this duty, from which no obstacle can divert her, the affectionate mother dies."

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### LESSON XXXIX.

#### SWALLOWS.

pas-ser-ine

em-ploy-ment

mar-tin

dis-tin-guish

ca-vern

spar-row

es-cu-lent

dif-fi-cult

ap-pear-ance

goat-suck-er

swal-low

bam-boos

Swallows belong to the second order of birds called Passerine, distinguished by having one toe behind and three before. To the swallow tribe belong the martin, the swift, and even the goat-sucker, unlike as it is in appearance to the swallow. The swallow is a pretty little bird, with rich purplish plumage, a short bill, and short slender legs; like the cuckoo, and other birds of passage, it leaves us in the autumn, and does not return till the warm days of spring. Swallows fly with extreme rapidity; there is no prettier sight than a flight of swallows on some bright sunny day in summer, darting through the air in search of the insects which are their prey, and mounting higher and higher till they are almost lost in the dark blue sky. Swallows often choose very curious places to build their nests in; the following anecdotes are related of the swallow: In the open court of a house in Scotland, there was a