The first bird that attracted their notice was a
doove, who sat cooing by himself in a corner, in
accents so gentle and sweet, that a stranger to his
language would have listened to them with delight;
but the redbreasts, who understood their import,
heard them with sympathetic concern. "Oh, my
dear, my beloved mate!" said he, "am I then
divided from you for ever? What avails it that I
am furnished here with all the elegances and
luxuries of life? Deprived of your company, I
have no enjoyment of them; the humblest morsel,
though gained with toil and danger, would be
infinitely preferable to me if shared with you.
Here am I shut up for the remainder of my days,
in society for which I have no relish, whilst she
who has hitherto been the beloved partner of all
my joys is for ever separated from me! In vain
will you, with painful wing, pursue your anxious
search in quest of me; never, never more shall I
bring you the welcome refreshment; never shall I
hear your soothing voice, and delight in the soft
murmurs of the infant pair which you hatched with
such care and nursed with such tenderness! No,
my beloved nestlings, never will your wretched
father be at liberty to guide your flight and instruct
you in your duty." Here his voice faltered, and