

“ kind often meet in the heart of the rock, and,
“ like miners in a siege, who sometimes cross
“ each other’s galleries, they frequently break
“ in upon each other’s retreats. Whether their
“ thus meeting be the work of accident, or of
“ choice, few can take upon them to deter-
“ mine; certain it is, they are most commonly
“ found in numbers in the same rock; and
“ sometimes above twenty are discovered within
“ a few inches of each other.”

These animals are pretty generally diffused, but they are found in the greatest numbers at Ancona, in Italy; along the shores of Normandy and Poitou, in France; and upon some of the coasts of Scotland. They are generally held as a great delicacy, and in some places are sedulously sought after for the purpose of supplying the tables of the luxurious.