

*The Flea.* Of all the insect tribe this is, by far, the most agile and active: its power of springing indeed is wonderful for its size, being capable of bounding more in height than two hundred times the bulk of its whole body; and some naturalists have been induced to attribute to it a degree of cunning and sagacity no less extraordinary; for they say that it makes its approach for an attack with as much caution, as it effectuates its escape with art and velocity; but this is, perhaps, allowing the flea a greater share of instinct than it, in reality, has any pretensions to; for although it certainly appears to exert a variety of manœuvres to save its life, and to preserve its freedom, yet that may probably be accounted for from the diminutiveness of its size, and the elasticity of its limbs; and as to its precaution in making its attacks, whatever individuals may imagine that they have observed, the flea hastily approaches the body that is warm, and greedily attacks those pores through which the blood can most easily be procured.

Numerous as these insects are, and notwithstanding that they are found in every part of the known world, yet their tormenting depredations are mostly confined to men and domestic