

ture in the picture of Nature, has given us several very striking images of this animal's numbers and rapacity. It compares an army where the numbers are almost infinite, to a swarm of locusts: it describes them as rising out of the earth, where they are produced: as pursuing a settled march to destroy the fruits of the earth, to co-operate with divine indignation.

It is confidently asserted that when locusts take the field they have a leader at their head, whose course they observe, and pay a strict attention to all his motions. They appear at a distance like a black cloud, which, as it approaches, gathers upon the horizon, and almost hides the light of day. In this manner they sometimes proceed to a considerable distance, but wretched is the district upon which they settle: they ravage the meadow and the pasture ground; strip the trees of their leaves, and the garden of its beauty; their visitation for a few minutes destroys the expectations of a year; and a famine but too frequently ensues. In their native tropical climates they are not so dreadful, as when they come into the southern parts of Europe; for there, though the plain and the forest be stripped of their verdure, the power of vegetation is so great that an interval
of