

“ which, however, did not come to perfection,
“ as it is probable they had not enough to sus-
“ tain them within.”

What Rheaurmur perceived in this instance, may be daily observed in all the caterpillar kind, particularly in the large one that feeds on cabbages, which in some seasons it is difficult to find without being thus impregnated, especially by the ichneumon, and other flies who make a nest of their bodies, and carefully deposit their eggs in them. But, laid in those parts that are not mortal, the reptile still continues to live, and to feed, shewing no sign of being incommoded by its new guests.

The Silk-worm. Though silk was anciently brought in small quantities to Rome, yet it was so scarce as to be sold for its weight in gold; and was considered as such a luxurious refinement in dress, that it was infamous for a man to appear in habits of which silk formed but half the composition. It was most probably brought among them from the remotest parts of the East, since it was, at the time of which we are speaking, scarcely known even in Persia.

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