
T H E H A R E.*

THE species of animals which are most numerous are not the most useful. Nothing can be more noxious than the multitudes of rats, mice, locusts, caterpillars, and many other insects, of which it would seem that Nature rather admitted than ordained the extraordinary increase. But those of the hare and rabbit are advantageous to us both from the number and utility. Hares are abundantly spread over the face of the earth; and rabbits, though originally natives of particular climates, multiply so prodigiously in almost every place to which they are transported, that instead of being extirpated, no small art is required in order to diminish their too-often inconvenient number. When we reflect on the astonishing fecundity of each particular species, on the quick and prodigious multiplication of certain animals which

* In French *le lièvre*; in Greek *λαγώς*; in Latin *lepus*; in Italian *lepre*; Spanish *liebre*; Portuguese *lebre*; German *base*; Swedish *bare*; Dutch *base*; Polish *lajonk*;