

conclusions respecting the regions which they inhabited.

28. TURTLES.—In turtles the want of active faculties is compensated by their passive means of resistance. They have no weapons of offence, but are inclosed in a panoply of armour formed by the expansion of the ribs above, and by the bones of the chest beneath; the carapace, or buckler, constituting the shell that spreads over the back of the turtle, is composed of the ribs, which, instead of being separated by intervals, as in other animals, are spread out and united together. Thus in the delicate and agile form of the serpent, and in the heavy and torpid mass of the turtle, the same general principle of structure prevails, and by a simple modification the skeleton is adapted for beings of very dissimilar forms and habits. The *testudinata* or turtles, like the other large reptiles, are essentially confined to torrid and temperate regions. The fresh-water species are capable of bearing a higher latitude than the terrestrial: upon the whole the utmost range of this class of reptiles appears to be from 54° N. lat. to about 40° S. lat.* The fluviatile species of tortoise, or *emys*, are carnivorous, feeding on frogs and small animals; those of the genus *Trionyx* (*three claws*) are African or Asiatic, with the exception of the *Trionyx ferox*,

* On the Testudinata, by Thomas Bell, Esq. 1 vol. folio; one of the most splendid works on Natural History that has appeared in this country.