

number of species of flowering plants already described amounts to at least 60,000, the species of insects must approach half a million. Indeed, judicious naturalists suppose that the species of animals existing on the globe cannot be less than a million — perhaps more.

A few facts respecting the numbers of individuals in particular species of animals may give a still deeper impression of the extent of the animate creation. And here the recollection immediately recurs to those vast swarms of locusts that have sometimes laid waste entire kingdoms — shut out the sun, as their armies, several feet thick, and miles in width, flew through the air. Among fishes, perhaps the shoals of herring which annually migrate southward from the arctic seas are the most incredibly numerous. Often these vast bodies move in columns that are several leagues in width and many fathoms thick, and so close together that they touch one another, and sensibly impede ships; and this stream continues to move past any particular spot nearly all summer. In Norway, 400,000,000 are annually taken; near Gottenburg, 700,000,000; and by other nations, “numbers without number.”

No less numerous are the tenants of the air. Captain Flinders saw a flock of sooty petrels pass over him, in Van Diemen's Land, which could not have contained less than 150,500,000.\* But a flock of pigeons which passed over Mr. Audubon, on the banks of the Ohio, he estimates at no less than 1,000,115,000,000 individuals — which would require for their support 8,712,000 bushels of grain per day.† The gelatinous animals, called medusæ, often small and even

\* Quarterly Review, 1814, p. 27.

† Jardine's American Ornithology, Vol. II. p. 196.