

Besides those insects of a disreputable name* which, under more than one form, inhabit his person externally; and those that, burying themselves in his flesh, annoy him and produce cutaneous diseases,† a whole host of others attack him internally, and sometimes fatally. Can we believe that man, in his pristine state of glory, and beauty, and dignity, could be the receptacle and the prey of these unclean and disgusting creatures? This is surely altogether incredible, I had almost said impossible. And we must either believe, with Le Clerc and Bonnet, that all those worms now infesting our intestines existed in Adam before his fall, only under the form of eggs, which did not hatch till after that sad event: or that these eggs were dispersed in the air, in the water, and in various aliments, and so were ready to hatch when they met with their destined habitation; or, as some parasites are found in the earth,‡ or the water,§ as well as in the human species, that they are in general formed for living in different stations: || or, lastly, that they were created subsequently to the fall of Adam, not immediately or all at once, but when occasions called for such expressions of the divine displeasure.

With respect to the first of these hypotheses, it seems to me very improbable for this reason, that it supposes the first pair to have in them the germs of all these animal pests, which although, before the fall, they were restrained from germination, after that event, were left to the ordinary action of physical laws, so that then every one of these scourges must have inhabited them and preyed upon them. Fallen indeed they were from glory and grace, but who can think that all the accumulated evils that their sin introduced into the world fell with concentrated violence upon their own heads, that all the various ills that flesh is heir to were ex-

* Pediculi.

† Sarcopes Scabiei, Pulex penetrans, &c.

‡ Lumbricus.

§ Gordius aquaticus.

|| See Introd. to Ent. iv. 229.