

seventeen years,* in such prodigious numbers as to do incalculable damage to the fruit and forest trees, in which it deposits its eggs, and upon which it feeds internally in the grub state, but the oral organs of the perfect insect are only calculated for suction.

Amongst quadrupeds, the analogues, in some respects, of the locusts, are the *Lemmings*, a kind of mouse or rat. These little animals, which usually inhabit the mountains of Norway and Lapland, in certain seasons, emigrate in prodigious numbers to the south; the most common species† is said not to lay up any winter store, but to form burrows underground in summer, and under the snow in winter in search of food; but that found in Kamtschatka,‡ which is larger than a rat, is stated to be occupied during the summer in laying up provisions for the winter in holes under the turf divided into compartments; they consist of various kinds of roots, some even poisonous, but which agree with this animal, and of which it collects from twenty to thirty pounds. It is called in Kamtschatka Tegulchitch. In fine weather its instinct teaches it to spread its harvest of roots in the sun to dry and fit them for keeping. When these different species of Lemmings make their excursions, which take place only in certain years and seasons, and in different directions, the species last mentioned going towards the west, the others towards the south, like certain ants, they always march straight forward, neither turning to the right hand nor to the left, and if their course is interrupted by a river, they cross it by swimming. The common Lemmings, when they migrate, are regarded as a terrible scourge; they devastate the fields and gardens, ruin the harvest, and only what is kept in the houses escapes them; into these happily they never enter. Their number is so prodigious, that,

* Cicada septendecim.—L.

† Lemmus vulgaris.

‡ Lemmus æconomus.