

nating at this time, when the diurnal temperature is so considerable.

With regard to the *swift*, these birds seem to avoid heat, they lie by in the middle of the day, and only appear in the morning and evening. Their early migration from this country may probably be caused by the heat; and Buffon says that instead of warmer they seek colder climates. The house-swallow,* which remains with us till October, is stated to winter in Africa, so that its object is evidently a warmer climate. It is remarkable that the birds of this tribe, when they visit us in the spring, return to their old haunts. Dr. Jenner ascertained this by cutting off two claws from the foot of a certain number, several of which were found in the following year, and one was met with after the expiration of seven. The instinct that directs these little beings so unerringly across continents and oceans, and leads them to their native clime is wonderful, and inexplicable under any other principle than that of Divine superintendence. But upon this I shall have occasion to enlarge hereafter.

From what is here stated, it seems most probable, that it is not only the increasing heat of the southern regions which induces the swallow to seek a less ardent clime to transact her loves and rear her young; but also a stimulus, caused by the heat, acting upon her organization, which aids to accomplish that important purpose, and is the leading star by which her Creator impels her to the land of her own nativity, and which is destined to be that of her offspring. Only the swift leaves a colder climate for one more genial and better suited to the same purpose, and both return from whence they came, when the errand of their voyage is fully accomplished. One sent away by too great heat, and the other by a gradual decreement of the amount of heat, and also of their customary food.

* *Hirundo rustica.*