

have accomplished it.* The female is stated to hollow out a long and deep excavation in the gravelly bed of the river to receive her spawn, and when deposited to cover it up, but this admits of some doubt.

Amongst the migrations of fishes, I must not neglect those that take place in consequence of the water in the ponds or pools that they inhabit being dried up: some of these are very extraordinary, and prove that when the Creator gave being to these animals, he foresaw the circumstances in which they would be placed, and mercifully provided them with means of escape from dangers to which they were necessarily exposed.

In very dry summers, the fishes that inhabit the above situations, are reduced often to the last extremities, and endeavour to relieve themselves by plunging, first their heads, and afterwards their whole bodies, in the mud to a considerable depth: and so, though many in such seasons perish, some are preserved till a rainy one again supplies them with the element so indispensable to their life. Carp, it is known, may be kept and fed a very long time in nets in a damp cellar, a faculty which fits them for retaining their vitality when they bury themselves at such a depth as to shelter them from the heat.

But others, when reduced to this extremity, desert their native pool, and travel in search of another that is better supplied by water. This has long been known of eels, which wind, by night, through the grass in search of water, when so circumstanced. Dr. Hancock, in the Zoological

* That the salmon takes its tail in its mouth, as described in the text, is an assertion frequently repeated in several popular works; but we doubt if any one who has had an opportunity of watching these animals as they breast the foam, struggling with the fierce waterfall till they surmount its edge, or else fall flashing back into the boiling surge, will feel disposed to admit the accuracy of the statement.—T. R. J.