

What is the great object of this law of the Creator, that impels them to seek, in many cases, a mountain retreat, at a distance from the ocean, which forms the liquid atmosphere fitted to the great body of the Crustaceans, has not hitherto, for want of sufficient and accurate details of their history, been made fully obvious. When insects leave the waters to become denizens of the earth and air, the object appears evidently an increase of food, not only for terrestrial animals, whether moving on the one or in the other, but to multiply even that of the inhabitants of the waters. When the day-flies* burst in such myriads from the banks of rivers which they inhabited in their first state, the fishes are all in motion, and often jump from the water to catch the living flakes that are every moment descending. When in the water, or under it, these animals and the may-flies are defended, or concealed from the fishes, and therefore are not so easy to come at; but now is their harvest, and when they drop their eggs, they fall towards the stream, and it is deemed a shower of manna.

The same object brings the several kinds of land-crabs at stated times to sea, to deposit their eggs where their young may reach a certain maturity, if not undergo a metamorphosis; probably at this period there is an assemblage of aquatic devourers of Crustaceans, to share in the expected harvest. And during the route of the myriads that thus migrate to the sea, beasts and birds, and man himself, all partake of the feast thus provided for them.

If we give this subject of the migration of animals due consideration, and reflect what would be the consequence if no animals ever changed their quarters, we shall find abundant reason for thankfulness to the Almighty Father of the universe, for the care he has taken of his whole

* Ephemear.