

that are erected upon piles. Did an animal, with the boring powers of the ship-worm, enter our rivers and abound there, we should see the magnificent bridges that so much adorn our metropolis, and are so indispensable to its inhabitants, gradually go to ruin; the vast stones with which they are built might become the habitation of pholads, and other rock-borers, and the communication between the two sides of the river greatly interrupted. But a merciful Providence has so limited the instincts of the different animals it has created, that they cannot overstep a certain boundary, nor extend their ravages beyond the territory assigned to them. The law laid down to the ship-worm is, to hasten the decay of timber that is out of its place, and may be denominated an unsightly encroachment upon the ocean; this is the law they must obey, and they make no distinction whether it is disowned by all, or an important and valuable part of man's property. Their individual *object*, as has been stated above, is their own benefit, and they neither know that they obey a law of God, or injure man; but the Almighty, by an irresistible agency, impels them to it, and they fulfil the purposes of his Providence, at the same time that they provide for their own welfare.

The history of none of the boring bivalves is more interesting than that of the *Pholads*, or stone-borers. These animals are defended by two very fragile shells, strengthened, indeed, by supplementary pieces, and rough like a file, inhabited by a very soft animal which appears to be furnished with no organs adapted to boring so hard a substance as a rock. When the young are disclosed from the egg, being cast upon the rock in which their mother resides, they bore a hole in it, which they enlarge daily, and which they never leave, unless compelled by force. This hole always communicates with the water, and is the orifice through which the animal exerts its double siphons; one of