

giving it more and more perfect sight, till he brings it forth in all its glory, in the highest animals.

The most common in this country of these herbivorous Trachelipods, is the garden-snail,\* but the species whose history has been most copiously related, is that called in France the *Escargot*,† which, though stated to have been originally imported into this country, now abounds in some parts of Surrey and other southern counties. I shall begin by giving some account of their economical, and then of their physical history.

On the continent, especially in France, this large snail, which is more than double the size of our garden one, is used as an article of food, and though said not to be easy of digestion, is very palatable. They are thought to be in best season in the winter, when they are hybernating, and covered with their temporary calcareous operculum, which falls off in the spring. The Romans appear to have fattened these snails, in places appropriated for that purpose. Pliny mentions several sorts that were kept separate, and amongst others white ones that were found in the neighbourhood of Rieti. The Illyrian snails he describes as the largest; the African as the most prolific; others from Soletum, in the Neapolitan territory, as the noblest and best: he speaks of some as attaining to so enormous a size, that their shells would contain eighty pieces of money of the common currency.‡ Bruguères, to whom conchology is under very great obligations, is of opinion that by cultivation the several species of snails might be brought to a much greater size, and furnish an abundant, wholesome, and even delicate aliment. There is no reason why the species of this genus, which feed on vegetable substances, should not be as palatable as the oyster or periwinkle.

Snails in general are hermaphrodites, or unite both sexes

\* *Helix hortensis*.

† *H. Pomatia*.

‡ *Quadrans*.