

country is the *periwinkle*, vulgarly called the pin-patch,* which, next to the oyster and the cockle, seems most in request as a relishing article of food. These animals, as I observed, not very long since at Cromer, in Norfolk, appear to make the bladder-kelp,† which, at low water, may be seen there in large patches, a kind of submarine pasture, for I found them in abundance upon it at low water. As the Creator willed that the waters, whether salt or fresh, should have their peculiar inhabitants, it was requisite that each should have its appropriate food. Did all feed upon the same substance there would be a universal struggle, unless, indeed, the entire variety of the submarine botanical world was done away, and one homogeneous article provided, in such quantity as to be a sufficient supply for all. But further, doubtless, different organizations and forms could not be maintained upon the same pabulum, and therefore different creatures required different articles of food, or different parts of the same article. Here was a mutual office—the numberless vegetable productions require to be kept within due limits, and therefore the function of the aquatic animals is to maintain them in due relative proportions. Was the ocean and all its streams planted as now, and there were no animals of any description to keep in check its vegetable productions, they would all in time grow up and choke the rivers, and gradually raise the bed of the ocean till there would be *no more sea*.

Having considered the plant-devouring Trachelipods, I shall say something next upon the *carnivorous* or predaceous ones, which form the great body of large marine shells, and those which most ornament our cabinets, for to this tribe belong the Cowries,‡ Cones,§ Mitres,|| Whelks,¶ Tuns,**

* *Turbo litoreus*.† *Fucus vesiculosus*.‡ *Cypræa*.§ *Conus*.|| *Mitra*.¶ *Buccinum*.** *Dolium*.