

Hispid Worms * of Lamarck, supposed by Gmelin to be the *Nais barbata* of Müller, and in a species of fresh water worm belonging to the Annelidans, which, if I may so speak, grows from cuttings, and like the *Planariæ*, can produce two heads. These last are probably not far removed from the flukes, † though their station is so different. Whether they live on animal or vegetable matter is not certainly ascertained; to look at their proboscis it seems rather calculated to fix them as a sucker to some animal, and so to derive their nutriment from it, like their analogue, the leech, especially as the marine species are supposed to be carnivorous.

Their wonderful reproductive powers appear to be given them by a kind Providence to prevent their total annihilation; at least, it is stated, that at certain periods of the year, their numbers are so reduced, that where thousands were seen in summer, in spring scarcely one has survived. Their substance is so soft and gelatinous, that they are easily destroyed; to compensate this, they are gifted with the extraordinary powers of reproduction above described. God hath so tempered his sentient works, that seeming defects, in one respect, are compensated by redundance in another.

Having made these observations upon animals of this class, that do *not* infest man or beast internally, I next turn to those whose office is, in spite of all his care, to make the Lord of the Creation, as well as the whole animal kingdom, not only their constant abode, but also their food. More than *twenty* of these pestiferous creatures, that attack man, have been enumerated; some penetrate into the very seat of thought; ‡ others disturb his bile; § others circulate with the

* Vers hispides.

† Fasciola.

‡ Echinococcus Hominis.

§ Fasciola hepatica.