

home empire is suffered to lie waste, while all the time hundreds of thousands of our agricultural population are languishing for want of employment, and compelled to live upon a pittance, which, unless they add to it by theft or fraud, is scarcely sufficient to keep body and soul together; and, in the meanwhile, the morals of our peasantry are gradually corrupted; they grow daily less industrious; they will often congregate at the beer-shops, and get inveterate habits of intemperance; they lose all respect for their superiors, and the bonds of union betwixt the upper and lower classes are gradually dissolving; and unless some remedy for this fearful evil is soon discovered, who can say what the consequences may be? When a man once loses his self-esteem, and is degraded from his natural dependence upon himself, under God, and the labour of his hands, for the support of himself and family, being no longer of use to himself or others, he becomes careless of his actions; and being, as it were, rejected by society, becomes the enemy of those above him, and the ready associate of evil men in evil works.

NOTE 20, p. 168.—*Those that are loricated and covered with some kind of shell.* The varied means by which a provident and beneficent Creator has provided animals with different means of defence, ought not to be overlooked. When we see even these invisible atoms as it were provided with armour, to defend them probably from the attack of animals of their own class, we feel confident that He will not neglect us. This distinction of animals into loricated and naked may be traced through most of their classes; thus the *Coleoptera* stand in contrast with most of the other orders of insects; the fishes and reptiles that are covered with scales with those that are covered with skin.* In

* In some fishes the scales are invisible, so that they may be almost reckoned naked. Vol. ii. chap. xix.