

and, on one side, they have a series of egg-bearing appendages.\* This whole structure proves that they are formed with this particular view of inhabiting the shells of a very different tribe of animals. Some of these hermit-crabs, for there are several species of them, may be called *terrestrial*, while others are *aquatic*. In some of the Indian isles, the shores are covered with them. When the heat is most intense they seek the shelter of the shrubs, and when the freshness of the evening breathes they run about by thousands, rolling along their shells in the most grotesque manner, jostling each other, stumbling, and producing a noise by the shock of their encounters, which announces their approach before they appear. When they perceive any danger, they hastily conceal themselves in any ready-made holes they meet with, or under the roots, or in the trunks of decayed trees, seldom making for the sea, how near soever they may be. At Guam, a very large species frequents forests more than a mile from the sea; and in Jamaica, another species, called there the soldier,† has been found in great quantities on elevated ground, more than four leagues from it.

The common species‡ is aquatic, and usually inhabits the whelk; it is stated annually to leave its shell, at the time of its moult, and after this great crisis is over, to seek another suited to its increased magnitude. Aristotle, Belon, and others affirm that these animals quit their shell to seek their prey, and that when danger threatens them, they retreat to it backwards, but observations have not been made by modern authors which confirm this statement. Their sexual intercourse, however, could not take place without their first leaving their mansion.

Why our, so-called, hermits are gifted with this singular instinct, is not easy to conjecture. Many other creatures

\* Fig. 72, *d. d. d. d.* † *Pagurus Diogenes.* ‡ *P. Bernhardus.*