

disengaged, the animal casts off its thorax, extends its tail briskly, and pushes off its covering and that of its parts. After this last action, which requires the utmost exertion of its remaining vigour, it sinks into a state of great weakness. Its limbs are so soft that they bend like a piece of wet paper; but if the back is felt, its flesh appears unexpectedly firm, a circumstance arising, perhaps, from the convulsive state of the muscles. When the thorax is once disengaged, and the animal has begun to extricate its legs, nothing can stop its progress. Reaumur often took them out of the water with the intention of preserving them half uncased, but they finished, in spite of him, their moult in his hands. Upon examining the exuviæ of these animals, we find no external part wanting; every hair is a case which covers another hair. The lower articulations of the legs are divided longitudinally at a suture which separates during the operation, but which is not visible in the living animal.

When we consider this apparently arduous and complex operation, we see the most evident proofs of *design*, and that the Creator has so put together the different parts of the animal's structure, that there is no occasion to divide the crust itself in order to liberate it. Instead of a solid tube, He has enclosed the leg in joints that are furnished with the means of dividing longitudinally, upon sufficient expansion of the included limb, and so opening a way for its liberation. In the whole body all the segments and parts are so united by a membrane which can yield to the expansive efforts of the animal, that the entire liberation of it from the armour that encases it, is accomplished with infinitely more ease than we should expect, even after a careful investigation of it. Besides membranous ligaments, so arranged by the Wisdom of the Creator as to yield to the efforts of these creatures to liberate themselves from their too strait garment, he has also furnished them, as Reaumur