

but few, or none, I believe, inhabit salt water, except perhaps some species of bugs.\*

The great Crustacean host, of which probably we do not know half the species, is certainly a most valuable gift to mankind, as well as to the various inhabitants or frequenters of the waters, especially of the ocean, varying as they do in size, from the great thorny lobster to the minute tribes of Entomostracans; they probably become the prey of many sea animals, besides the Cephalopods, which are stated to make such havoc among them.† When we further consider their powers of infinite multiplication, we see that however great the consumption of them, there appears no diminution of their numbers, so that one kind of animals, by the will of Him who created all things, and who gave a law to each species, which regulated their numbers, and the momentum of their action, doing or suffering, is made to compensate for another, and the law of preservation to act as an equipoise to the law of destruction.

When we look, however, at these animals, especially the larger kinds, and survey their offensive organs and weapons, and the coat of mail that defends them, we feel convinced that they also are employed to keep down the numbers of other inhabitants of the ocean, more especially as the great body of them are evidently predaceous: and this, on such a survey, seems to us their primary function. God numbers and weighs them both with those they destroy and those that destroy them; his bridle is in their mouth, and they go as far as he permits them: and when he gives the word—Peace, be still—the mutual conflict relaxes, or, in some parts, is intermitted, till the general welfare calls for its revival.

It may be observed with regard to this constant scene of destruction, this never universally intermitted war of one part of the creation upon another, that the sacrifice of a part

\* Salda Zosteræ, F. &c.

† See above, Vol. i. p. 293.