

dark places of the earth. Viewed in this light, however disgusting they may seem to us in their general aspect, we may regard them as beneficial, and as contributing their efforts to maintain in order and beauty the globe we inhabit.

It is worthy of remark that the great Hebrew Legislator, amongst the unclean animals which it was unlawful for the Israelites to eat or to touch, enumerates those which *multiply feet*.\* In the common version it is translated, *Hath more feet*; but the marginal reading is nearest to the Hebrew,† and seems to allude to a circumstance upon which I shall hereafter enlarge, namely, that these animals increase the number of their legs with their growth. As a subject intimately connected with Zoology in general, and leading to a very profitable study of the animal kingdom in a moral point of view, it will not be foreign to the object of the present treatise if I add here a few remarks upon the distinction of animals into clean and unclean, observable in many parts of Holy Writ. This distinction was originally to indicate those which might or might not be offered up in sacrifice, and afterwards, when animal food was permitted, to signify to the Jews those that might and those that might not be eaten. When Noah was commanded, *Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female; and of beasts that are not clean, by two, the male and his female,‡*—it is evident that the distinction was familiar to the Patriarch. The *unclean* animals, with respect to their habits and food, belong to two great classes, namely *Zoophagous* animals, or those which attack and devour *living* animals; and *Necrophagous* animals, or those which devour *dead* ones, or any other putrescent substances. Of the first description are the *canine§* and *feline||* tribes amongst *quadrupeds*; the *eagles¶* and *hawks\*\** amongst *birds*; the *crocodiles††* and *serpents‡‡* amongst

\* Levit. xi. 42. † מרבה רגלים. ‡ Genes. vii. 2. § Canis.  
 || Felis. ¶ Aquila. \*\* Falco. †† Sauria. ‡‡ Ophidia.