

gives effect to that purpose and contrivance; and His goodness, which causes every varied mean to subserve to the more convenience and comfort of the animals in which each obtains. Could we trace exactly the history and habits of every group of animals, nay, of each individual species, we should discover that the slightest variation was to answer a particular end; and that even its very hairs and pores were all numbered with reference to special uses, foreseen by Divine Wisdom.

Amongst other purposes for which suckers were given to the Class of Insects, one bears relation to the intercourse of the sexes. This is particularly observable in the males of the predaceous beetles, * especially the aquatic ones. In the terrestrial ones † indeed something of the kind takes place, for the males may be known by having the three or four first joints sometimes only of the anterior tarsi, and sometimes of the intermediate, more or less dilated, and furnished underneath with short bristles, intermixed, it should seem, with very minute suckers, and in some with transverse ones. ‡ But these organs are most conspicuous in the male of our most common water-beetles, § in which the three first joints of the anterior tarsus form a dilated orbicular shield, covered with minute suckers, sitting on a tubular footstalk, with two exceeding the rest greatly in size. The intermediate legs also have the three first joints thickly set with minute suckers.

Leaving the invertebrated animals, the occurrence of suckers becomes very rare; very few instances are upon record, in the whole Sub-kingdom of vertebrated animals, of this kind of formation; two in the Class of fishes, and the

* Carnivora. Lat.

† Cicindelidæ, Harpalidæ, Carabidæ, &c.

‡ E. G. Harpalus caliginosus. F.

§ Dyticus marginalis, &c. Philos. Trans. ubi supr. t. xx.