

neis amongst the fishes, in which they are insufficient to transport it far from its native rocks and haunts, such means should be afforded by a kind Providence of visiting in safety the most distant oceans. These animals, though they may be called parasitic, from their adhering to other animals, yet, as they do not appear to imbibe any nutriment from them, the design of this singular instinct seems to be merely their transport, for purposes not yet fully ascertained.

But there are other fishes whose mouth is a suctorious organ, analogous to that of the leech, by which they suck the blood of the aquatic animals they adhere to; of this description are the *Lamprey** and the *Hag*,† but upon these I shall not further enlarge.

The other sucker-bearing vertebrated animals, which I mentioned, were those Saurians which form the genus *Gecko*, and the object of this structure, in them, is to enable them to walk against gravity, that thus they may be empowered to pursue the insects, possessing the same faculty, up perpendicular or along prone surfaces. These suckers,‡ consisting of transverse laminae, occupy the terminal part of the underside of the toes. By aid of these organs they can mount the smooth chunam walls of houses in India. Another Saurian genus,§ the Gecko, of the West Indies, has a similar organ, by means of which it climbs up trees, as well as the walls of houses, in the pursuit of insects.

The adhesion of suckers and their relaxation, especially in locomotion, in order to answer the end for which they were given, must be as perfectly dependent upon the will of the animal, as our steps on the plane we are moving on are upon ours; and yet in some instances, as in the perch-pest,|| the

* Petromyzon.

† Myxine.

‡ Philos. Trans. 1816, t. xvii. f. 2.

§ Anolus.

|| Achtheres Percarum. See above, p. 89.