

animal, when once fixed, can scarcely disengage itself; but in this case having attained its ultimate station, this is of no importance.

If we study the individual cases of all the sucker-bearing animals, we shall find that this kind of organ was necessary, and all its modifications, to enable them to fulfil effectually their several instincts, and to do the work appointed them by their all-wise Creator. For instance, in vain would the Cephalopods pursue and endeavour to seize and devour the crab or the lobster, if, instead of tentacles set with numerous suckers, they had the paws and retractile claws of the Feline race: or how would the Gecko be enabled to overtake its insect provender, if its feet were like those of the rest of its class?

As supplementary to this account of suckers, I may mention a locomotive organ, given to a very numerous tribe of invertebrated animals, which, as I observed on a former occasion, appears in some degree to partake of the nature of a sucker, and which is eminently adapted to the structure, circumstances, and wants of the animals that are provided with it. I mean the expansile foot of the great majority of Molluscans: these animals are the only instance of a *unipede* structure in creation, but this one foot answers every purpose of a hand or leg; it spins for the bivalves their byssus,* is used by others as an auger,† by others as a trowel,‡ and by others for other manipulations, and is generally their sole organ of locomotion: from its soft and flexible substance it can adapt itself to the surfaces upon which it moves, and by the slime that it copiously secretes, lubricates them to facilitate its progress. In very dry weather, however, it cannot move with ease over the arid soil, but when humid from rain, the whole terrestrial Molluscan army issues forth, naked, or in various panoply, each

* Vol. i. p. 244.

† Ibid. p. 241.

‡ Ibid. p. 275.