

have their posterior thighs much disproportioned to the bulk of their bodies, which allow space for a sufficient muscular apparatus, to send them, like an arrow from a bow, to a great distance. If a finger be held to a leaf covered by the *turnip flea*,\* in the twinkling of an eye all skip off and vanish. We may hence imagine with what expedition they disappear at the approach of any insectivorous bird. Thus, their Creator, who cares for the meanest of his creatures, has furnished them with means of escape to prevent their annihilation, and to preserve them in such force as may best answer his end in creating them.

But besides *partial* modifications of the structure of these organs for particular uses, others are more *general*, and affect the whole leg. Every one is aware how well adapted, by their fleetness, some of the *Ruminant Mammals* are, to make their escape from their ravenous pursuers, the most adroit and the most ruthless of which is the *mighty hunter*, man.

If we look at the legs and hoofs of the *deer* tribe,† the former long, slender, and elastic; and the latter calculated for sure footing; and if we consider besides the quickness of their senses of seeing and hearing, we see at once that their structure is the effect of *design*, and that the deepest intellect presided at its first fabrication.‡ Though man, as well as every ferocious beast, pursues these beautiful and elastic animals, it is only because he is *Gulæ deditus*, seldom with any view to seek their alliance, or to turn them to his purposes. There are some, however, as well as the rein-deer,§ cherished by the Laplander as his principal treasure, but pursued by the American savage only to be devoured, which probably might be employed with advan-

\* *Haltica oleracea*, *Nemorum*, &c.

‡ See Roget, B. T. i. 506.

† *Cervus*. L.

§ *Cervus Tarandus*.