

tage, as well as the dog, in countries not suited to our beasts of burden; and it has been supposed that the Wapiti* might be trained and rendered useful. I am ignorant, however, whether any steps have ever been taken to ascertain this.

But the legs, as well as instruments of flight and escape, are adapted in fiercer animals to the pursuit and prehension of their prey, and in this, and many other respects, their *hand* or *foot* is the part principally interesting. This is used for so many various purposes, that perhaps it will be best to take a summary survey, in this respect, of all the Classes of animals with articulated legs, and briefly point at their different structures and their uses.

As I have already given an account of the two kinds of forceps of Crustaceans,† I shall begin with the legs of the *Arachnidans*, or spiders. Every one who examines the web of a common spider, whether it is formed of concentric circles, supported by diverging rays, or whether it imitates any finely woven substance, will be convinced that she must be furnished with a peculiar set of organs to effect these purposes; that she must have something like a *hand* to work with. Amongst the small things that are wise upon earth, Solomon mentions the spider; and the way by which he tells us she shows her wisdom is by her prehensory powers—*she takes hold with her hands.*‡ And truly what Arachne does with her hands and her spinning organs is very wonderful, as I shall have occasion hereafter to show. I shall now only make a few observations upon the organs by which she takes hold.

Spiders are gifted with the faculty of walking against gravity, even upon glass, and in a prone position. According to the observations of Mr. Blackwall, this is not effected

* C. Stongyloceras. † See above, p. 29. ‡ Prov. xxx. 28.