

pursue and devour them; the fly-catching ones, as the several species of the carp and salmon genus,\* are equally upon the watch, but nearer the surface, to seize a may-fly† or ephemera; the fishing-frog‡ hangs out its lines in the sea to catch other fishes; the serpents are said to fascinate the birds; the enormous boa lies in wait for the antelopes and other quadrupeds, and, coiling itself round them in mighty folds, crushes them to render them more fit for deglutition; the Batrachians, Chelonians, and numerous Saurians are on the alert after insects and small game; while the vast and ferocious crocodiles and alligators, looking like trunks of trees, lie basking near the surface of the water, ready to spring upon any large fish, or even man, that may chance to come within reach.

Of all animals, *insects* afford the most numerous instances of instinctive proceedings with this sole end in view; the pit-falls of the ant-lion;§ the webs and nets of the various sorts of spiders spread over the face of nature; and many more, furnish instances of stratagems to secure their daily food; while an infinity of others acquire it, aided only by their senses and natural weapons. Let any one look at the prominent eyes, tremendous jaws, and legs and wings formed for rapid motion on the earth or in the air of the tiger-beetles,|| and he will readily see that they want no other aid to enable them to seize their less gifted prey: and numerous other tribes, both on the earth and in the water, emulate them in these respects. The *pacific* or herbivorous insects also are mostly fitted with an extraordinary acuteness of certain senses to direct them to their appropriate pabulum. The sight of the butterfly and moth invariably leads them to the flowers, to suck whose nectar their multi-valve tubes are given them. The scent of the dung-beetles

\* Cyprinus and Salmo.

† Phryganea.

‡ Lophius.

§ Myrmeleon.

|| Cicindela.