

potent hand, be found to be most admirably contrived for all the purposes of its creation; and the scrutinizing naturalist will soon discover this unusual conformation to be the character which at once stamps its habits and economy.\*

One of the most singular animals of this Class is one called the *vegetating* mite.† These are fixed for a time, by an anal thread, to certain beetles, by means of which, as by an umbilical chord, they derive their nutriment from them. After a certain time, they disengage themselves, and seek their food in the common way of their tribe.

It is difficult to say where Latreille's Order of *Aporo-branchians*‡ should properly be placed. Savigny considers them as leading from the Crustaceans to the Arachnidans by *Phalangium*. If they are parasitic upon marine animals, as there is reason to believe, might they not, in some sort, be regarded as one of those branches, which, without going by the regular road, form a link between tribes apparently distant from each other?§ They seem, in some respects at least, to present an analogy, if not an affinity, to the Hexapod parasites, the bird-louse,|| &c. I offer this merely as a conjecture.

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## CHAPTER XX.

### FUNCTIONS AND INSTINCTS. INSECT CONDYLOPES.

THE animals of the class we are next to consider, have been regarded by many modern zoologists, especially of the French

\* Linn. Tr. xi. 13.

† Uropoda vegetans.

‡ Nymphon. Pycnogonum, &c.

§ See above, p. 14.

|| Nirmus.