

gold and silver with which a liberal and powerful hand has invested or bespangled numbers of them ; the down, the hair the wool, the scales, with which He, who careth for the smallest and seemingly most insignificant works of his hand, hath clothed and covered them ; when all these things strike upon our senses, and become the subject of our thoughts and reflection, we find a scene passing before us, far exceeding any, or all of those, that we have hitherto contemplated in our progress from the lowest towards the highest members of the animal kingdom, and which, for its extent and the myriads of its mustered armies, each corps distinguished as it were by its own banner, and under its proper leaders, infinitely outnumbers all the members of the higher Classes, which stand as it were between aquatic and terrestrial animals, many of its tribes under one form inhabiting the water, and under another the earth and the air.

The following characters distinguish this great Class :—

BODY, covered with a horny or coriaceous integument. *Spinal chord* knotty, terminating anteriorly in a bilobed brain ; a *heart* and imperfect *circulation*, sometimes vascular, and sometimes extra-vascular ; *respiration* by *tracheæ*, receiving the air by *spiracles* ; *legs* jointed, in the perfect insect always *six*.

The Class of Insects may be divided into two *Sub-classes*,* viz., *Ametaboli*ans, or those that do *not* undergo any *metamorphosis*, and have no wings ; and *Metaboli*ans, or those that undergo a *metamorphosis*, and are usually fitted with wings in their final state.

Sub-class 1.—*Ametaboli*ans are further subdivided into two *Orders*, *Thysanurans* and *Parasites*.

* See above, p. 14.