

carnivorous, coprophagous, and fungivorous. The Histers will devour carrion, dung, funguses, and putrescent wood: I once found the autumnal dung-beetle* in considerable numbers in a dead bird, and Lacordaire mentions others that are carnivorous: he says that the habits of *Trox* approach those of the necrophagous beetles, it being always found under half-dried carcasses, of which they gnaw the tendinous parts. It is found also in the excrements of man and herbivorous animals. *Phanæus Milon* he observed principally under putrescent fishes on the shores of the River Plate.†

We have thus had a regular transition, with regard to their food, leading the beetle tribes through the animal to the vegetable world.

Vegetable feeders are innumerable amongst them, the gold,‡ tortoise,§ and flea-beetles|| all devour plants in both their active states, and some of these are extremely injurious to the farmer¶ and gardener. Many are destructive to seeds, fruits, and roots, numbers of the weevil tribe, and all the Bruchi are of this description.**

But of all the beetle tribes the *timber-devourers* are the most numerous; one of the most splendid and brilliant of the whole Order, the *Buprestidans*, belongs to this department, and the still more numerous and more varied *Capricorn* beetles,†† though less refulgent with metallic splendour, add a vast momentum in the interminable forests of tropical regions, and must be of the greatest use in gradually reducing trees that have been uprooted by tornadoes, or any other cause, to a state of putridity, and finally to dust. Other beetles, of smaller dimensions, and of a cylindrical

* *Geotrupes autumnalis*.

‡ *Chrysomela*, &c.

|| *Haltica*.

** *Ibid.* 172, 176, &c.

† *Ann. des Sc. Nat.* xx. 263, 265.

§ *Cassida*.

¶ *Introd. to Ent.* i. 187, 207.

†† *Cerambyx*. L.