

by the sailors the *sea-devil*, taken at Barbadoes, was so large as to require *seven pairs* of oxen to draw it on shore!!\*

If we consider the vast tendency to increase of the oceanic tribes, that where a terrestrial animal gives birth to a single individual, a marine one perhaps produces a *million*, we may conceive that if no check was provided to keep their numbers within due limits, they would so fill the waters as to interfere with each other's and the general welfare. The Cod-fish alone, which, according to Leeuwenhoek and Lacepede,† produces more than nine millions of eggs in one year, if neither man, nor shark, nor other predaceous fish, made it their food, would so fill the ocean in congenial climates, in the course of no long period of time, that there would scarcely be space for the motions or life of any other marine animal: the same may be said of almost all the migratory fishes. In these circumstances we see the reason why such enormous monsters were created that could swallow them by hundreds, why their yawning mouth and throat were planted with teeth and fangs of different descriptions, fixed and moveable, arranged in many a fearful row of bristling points, and why this tremendous array has been mustered in the mouth of animals of such never-sated voracity, and of such unmitigated cruelty and ferocity.

Still, though the scene is one of blood and slaughter, yet He, whose tender mercies are over all his works, has fitted the creatures exposed to it for their lot. Cold-blooded animals, as I lately observed, do not suffer from the various dismemberments to which their situation exposes them, like those of a higher and warmer temperature, whence we may conclude that great pain and anguish are not felt by them.

\* Lacep. Hist. des Poiss. ii. 116.

† Leeuwenh. Epist. iii. 188. Lacepe. Hist. Ibid. 393.