

in other respects adapts it. It plunges itself in the mud, covers itself with sea-weed, conceals itself amongst the stones, and lets no part of it be perceived but the extremity of the filaments that fringe its body, which it agitates in different directions, so as to make them appear like worms or other baits. The fishes, attracted by this apparent prey, approach, and are absorbed by a single movement of the fishing-frog, and swallowed by his enormous throat, where they are retained by the innumerable teeth with which it is armed. Another animal of this tribe is furnished only with a single bait, just above the mouth.*

We see by this singular contrivance that fertility of expedient by which the Beneficence, and Wisdom, and Power of the Creator have remedied the seeming defects which appear incident to almost every animal form. If it cannot pursue, and overtake, and seize its prey, it is enabled, as in the case of the *electric fishes*, the *fly-shooter*, and the *fishing-frogs*, in a way we should not expect, to ensure its subsistence; and while it is doing this, discharging, if I may so speak, its official duty, and acting that part, on its own theatre, by which it best contributes to the general welfare.

Doubtless the infinite forms of the Class we are considering, that inhabit the, so-called, element of water, and of which probably we may still be unacquainted with a very large proportion, all bear the same relation to each other, and are organized with a view to a similar action upon each other that we see takes place upon the earth. There are predaceous fishes to keep the aquatic population of every description within due limits; there are others whose office it is to remove nuisances arising from putrescent substances, whether animal or vegetable; and lastly, there are others which, like our herds and flocks, are peaceful and gregarious, and graze the herbage of sea-weeds that cover the

* Malthus Vespertilio, Fig. 102, 103, a.