

ocean's bed. All these, in their several stations; and by their several operations, glorify their Almighty Author by fulfilling his will.

CHAPTER XXII.

FUNCTIONS AND INSTINCTS. REPTILES.

IN the whole sphere of animals, there are none that, from the earliest ages, have been more abhorred and abominated, and more repudiated as unclean and hateful creatures, than the majority of the Class we are next to enter upon—that of *Reptiles*. One Order* of them, indeed, consisting of the turtles and tortoises, and some individuals belonging to another, † are exempted from this sentence, and are regarded with more favourable eyes; but the rest either disgust us by their aspect, or terrify us by their supposed or real power of injury.

In Scripture, the *serpent*; the larger *Saurians*, under the names of the *dragon* and *leviathan*; and *frogs*, are employed as symbols of the evil spirit, of tyrants and persecutors, and of the false prophets that incite them. ‡

Yet these animals exhibit several extraordinary characters and qualities. They are endued with a degree of vivaciousness that no others possess: they can endure dismemberments and privations which would expel the vital principle from any creature in existence except themselves. Their life is not so concentrated in the brain, which with them is extremely minute, but seems more expanded over the whole

* The Chelonians.

† The Gecko, Monitor, Chamæleon, &c. amongst the Saurians.

‡ Job xli. 34; Ps. xxvii. 1; Ezek. xxv. 3; Rev. xx. 2; xvi. 13.