

upon various small animals, especially insects, and some Ophidians upon large ones; but the *Chelonians* seem principally to derive their nutriment from marine and other vegetables, though some of these will devour Molluscans, worms, and small reptiles: the *Trionyx ferox* will attack and master even aquatic *birds*. Cuvier says, after Catesby, that the common *Iguana* subsists upon fruit, grain, and leaves. Bosc states that it lives principally upon *insects*; and that it often descends from the trees after earth-worms and small reptiles, which it swallows whole.*

Order 1.—The *Siren*, or *Mud-iguana*, occupies the first place in this Order, and seems to connect with the Apod and Cyclostomous Fishes, from which it is distinguished by its gills in three tufts, and by having only one pair of legs. It appears to be an animal useful to man, since it is stated to frequent marshes in Carolina, in which rice is cultivated, where it subsists upon earth-worms, insects, and other similar noxious creatures.

But of all the animals which God hath created to work his will, as far as they are known to us, none is more remarkable, both for its situation and many of its characters, than one to which I have before adverted,† as affording some proof, that *the waters under the earth*, and other subterranean cavities, may have their peculiar population. The animal I allude to is the *Proteus*, belonging to the present Order, which was first found thrown up by subterranean waters in Carniola, as we are informed by the late Sir H. Davy,‡ by Baron Zöis. Sir Humphry himself appears to have found them in the Grotto of the Maddalena, at Adelsburg, several hundred feet below the surface of the earth; he also states that they have been found at Sittich,

* Règn. An. ii. 44. N. D. D'H. N. xvi. 113.

† Vol. i. p. 79.

‡ Consolat. in Trav. 187.