

with great calmness, he shows his teeth as if he was in a rage. When extreme hunger presses him, he will swallow stones and pieces of wood, to keep his stomach distended. The heron and the pelican are said to take advantage of the terror which the sight of the crocodile produces amongst the fishes—causing them to flee on all sides—to seize and devour them: therefore they are frequently seen in his vicinity.

*Order 5.*—The *Chelonians*, as far as at present known, seem far removed from the Saurians. The turtles, indeed, in their paddles, exhibit an organ which is common to them, and some of the fossil Saurians, as the *Ichthyosaurus* and *Plesiosaurus*. Cuvier places the *Trionyx* next above the crocodiles; but it agrees with them only in its fierceness and voracity, and the number of its claws.

The importance of the highest tribe of this Order to seamen in long voyages, is universally known and acknowledged; but otherwise there is nothing particularly interesting in their history, or that of the tortoises.

A singular circumstance distinguishes the animals of this Class—very few of them have teeth formed for mastication. The *guana* is almost the only one amongst the existing tribes that has them. The Chelonians, which seem almost capable of living without food, have none. The teeth of the predaceous tribes are fitted to retain or lacerate their prey, but not to masticate it; so that the function of the great majority appears to be the same with that of the Ophidians before mentioned—the complete deglutition of the animals their instinct compels them to devour. Insects, which, of all minor animals, are the most numerous, and require most to be kept in check, form the principal part of the food of a large proportion of them. Creatures also that frequent dark and damp places, and that take shelter under stones