

those animals which are themselves carnivorous, prey on vegetable feeders much oftener than otherwise; and are thus remotely dependent on vegetables. Of the habits of animals living in the sea, and thus concealed from our view, we know still less: but in general, they appear to prey on each other; the stronger, as is usual, devouring the weaker.

We have seen the wonderful diversities prevailing among vegetables, in different situations and climates; and it may be truly said, that the diversities among animals are not less numerous, and are even more extraordinary. Thus, in every climate and soil, almost every herb has its appropriate inhabitant; some little being, that comes into existence, passes its ephemeral life, and dies on the same plant; to which, therefore, that plant constitutes the world. Nay, in general, even different parts of the same plant have each its separate occupants, one feeding on its fruit, another on its flowers, a third on its leaves, perhaps a fourth on its very woody core. This almost infinite diversity, and infinity of number, are principally confined to the smaller animals, or insects. As animals increase in size, the number of species as well as of individuals constantly diminishes. Thus, while there are hundreds of species of the Beetle tribe, and the individuals are countless, there may be considered to be only one Elephant; and while