

Shrimps are in numbers like the sand on the sea-shore, the Whale is as much a solitary species. This striking difference with regard to numbers, has been considered to arise necessarily from a law of nature; and in one respect such an explanation is very obvious: but, in another point of view, we may contemplate an admirable evidence of design. It is clear that millions of elephants could not exist; if for no other reason, from want of food: but why should millions of beetles exist? why should these little creatures,—whose life is so transitory, that it consists of little more than of being born, and of dying; whose structure is so frail as to be liable to be annihilated by the slightest accident; who are everywhere surrounded by all sorts of enemies, to many of which they constitute a natural prey;—why, we ask, in spite of all these obstacles and dangers, should these insignificant animals contrive to exist in the numbers we see? No natural law, surely, will explain the appearance of such multitudes. The difficulty requires another solution; and the only solution which can be offered is *design*—that it was so designed by the Great Author of nature. And how has He effected His purpose of multiplying to such an extent these little animals? The answer is, simply, by increasing their fecundity. Had beetles, like elephants, brought forth only one young at a time; long ere now, their race would have been