

ing an armed front to the enemy, on whatever side he may venture to begin the attack.

There is a numerous family of fishes, found in the seas of India, so constructed as to be able to crawl on land to some distance from the shore. One of these, the *Perca scandens*, is even capable of climbing on the trees which grow on the coast.*

If we consider the density of the medium which fishes have to traverse, the velocity with which they move will appear surprising. They dart through the water with apparently as much ease and rapidity as a bird flies through the air. Although this may partly be accounted for by the size of their muscles, and the advantageous mode of their insertion, yet these advantages would avail but little, were it not for the sudden manner in which their power is exerted. Where the great length and flexibility of the spine tend to impair the force with which the tail strikes the water, the resulting motion is slow and desultory, as is the case with eels, and other fishes of the same elongated construction.† Most fishes, however, move with the utmost rapidity, and with scarcely any visible effort; and perform long journeys without apparent fatigue. The Salmon has been known to travel at the rate of sixteen miles an hour for many days together. Sharks often follow ships across the Atlantic, not only outstripping them in their swiftest sailing, but playing round them on every side, just as if the vessel were at rest.

* See the account given by Lieutenant Daldorff; *Linnean Transactions*, III. 62. I shall have occasion to notice, in the sequel, the remarkable conformation of the respiratory organs of these and other fishes, which enable them to live, for a time, out of their natural element.

† Carlisle, *Phil. Trans.* for 1806, p. 9.