

very disagreeable in food. It has lately been observed, that the *calamus aromaticus* grows in vast abundance on the banks of that river, and that these creatures feed very greedily upon its roots. These have a very remarkable bitterness mixed with their aromatic flavour, while fresh, which goes off very much in the drying; and on comparing the taste of these roots with that of the cray-fish, there remains no doubt of the one being owing to the other.

They abound in the river Don, in Muscovy, where they are laid in heaps to putrify; after which the stones called *crabs-eyes* are picked out. These animals are very greedy of flesh, and flock in great numbers about carcasses thrown into the water where they are, and never leave them while any remains. They also feed on dead frogs when they come in their way. In Switzerland there are some cray-fish which are red when they are alive, and others bluish. Some kinds of them also will never become red even by boiling, but continue blackish.

The cray-fish discharges itself of its stomach; and, as Geoffrey thinks, of its intestines too. These, as they putrify and dissolve, serve for food to the animal; during the time of the re-formation, the old stomach seems to
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