

their bodies become so large as to be imprisoned in their own covering, when the shell bursts, and is quickly replaced by a new one.

Lastly, these animals are endued with a degree of strength for their size, that at first might exceed credibility. Had man an equal degree of strength, bulk for bulk, with a louse or flea, the history of Samson would be no longer miraculous. A flea will draw a chain a hundred times heavier than itself; and to compensate for this force, will eat ten times its own size of provision in a single day.

The *Spider* is the animal that deserves our first notice in this principal order of insects, whose manners are the most subtle, and whose instincts the most various. Formed for a life of rapacity, and incapable of living upon any other than insect food, all its habits are calculated to deceive and surprize; it spreads toils to entangle its prey; it is endued with patience to expect its coming; and is possessed of arms and strength to destroy it when fallen into the snare.

In these countries, where all the insect tribes are kept under by human assiduity, the spiders are but small and harmless. We are acquainted with few except the *house-spider*, which weaves
its