

**THE NATURAL  
HISTORY OF  
INSECTS. FIRST SERIES**

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The Natural History of Insects. First Series by James Rennie

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**JAMES RENNIE**

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THE

**NATURAL HISTORY**

OF

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## INTRODUCTION.

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ALL that is cognizable to sense is reducible to two classes of existences—the one passive, inert, and governed by the general laws of nature ; the other active, combating and modifying these laws. The first class comprehends inorganic or inanimate existence ; the second, animate or organic existence. Animate beings are composed of organs which, though varying in number, figure, and function, in the infinite varieties of living creatures, may, nevertheless, be classed under two heads : 1st. Organs destined to preserve the individual. 2d. Organs appropriated to the perpetuation of the species. To the first class belong the organs of nutrition, locomotion, and sensation ; to the second, the organs of generation. A scale or gradation of animated beings may therefore be established, on the ground of their possessing more or fewer of these organs.

The simplest animal with which we are acquainted is to be found in water either in a stagnant state or impregnated with decayed vegetable matter : it is of microscopic minuteness, a single living point, without any organ whatever, and called *Monas*. A drop of putrid water contains myriads of these in motion. One degree higher in the