

may be gathered from the law in Cyrenæica mentioned by Pliny, by which the inhabitants were enjoined to destroy the locusts in three different states three times in the year—first their eggs, then their young, and lastly the perfect insect. And notwithstanding reason was such a law enacted: for Orosius tells us, that in the year of the world 3,800, Africa was infested by such infinite myriads of these animals, that having devoured every green thing, after flying off to sea, they were drowned, and being cast upon the shore, they emitted a stench greater than could have been produced by the carcasses of 100,000 men. St. Augustine also mentions a plague to have arisen in that country from the same cause, which destroyed no less than 800,000 persons in the kingdom of Masanissa alone, and many more in the territories bordering upon the sea. Mr. Barrow, also, a recent traveller in Africa, tells us, that when an immense swarm was driven into the sea by a N. W. wind, they formed upon the shore for fifty miles a bank three or four feet high, and when the wind was S. E. the stench was so powerful as to be smelled at the distance of 150 miles.

From Africa this plague is occasionally imported into Italy and Spain; and a historian quoted in Mouffet relates, that in the year 591, an infinite army of locusts of a size unusually large, grievously ravaged part of Italy: and being at length cast into the sea, from their stench arose a pestilence which carried off near a million of men and beasts. In the Venetian territory, also, in 1478, more than 30,000 persons are said to have perished in a famine occasioned by the same terrific visitation.

Even Britain, so remarkably distinguished by its exemption from most of those scourges to which other nations are exposed, was once