

called them a sensitive flowering plant; he observed it to take refuge in the holes of rocks, and, when undisturbed, to spread forth a number of ramifications, each terminated by a flowery petal, which shrunk at the approach of the hand, and withdrew into the hole, whence before it had been seen to issue. This plant, however was no other than an animal of the polypus kind, which is not only to be found in Barbadoes, but also on many parts of the coast of Cornwall, and along the shores of the Continent.

A very minute race of the polypi species have also been found to cover what is called the *Coral Plant*, which is in such abundance all along the shores of the Persian gulph, the whole extent of the Red Sea, and the western coasts of America. These have excited the attention of several philosophers, and a variety of opinions have been thrown out concerning them, or rather as to the nature of the substance on which they are found; some confidently affirming it to be an aquatic plant, and that myriads of these insects being found on it, is not in the least singular, as there are many vegetables on earth equally covered by multitudes of living creatures, so small as to require a microscope to distinguish them. Others, on the contrary, pretend