

to the life and the manners of animals, or to the culture and vegetation of plants, belongs perhaps less to Natural History, than the general results of the observations which have been made on the different substances which compose the terrestrial globe, on the elevations and depths, and the inequalities of its form; on the motions of the sea, on the direction of mountains, on the position of quarries, the rapidity and effects of currents in the ocean, &c. This is the history of nature in its most ample extent, and these are the operations by which every other effect is influenced and produced. The theory of these effects constitutes what may be termed a primary science, upon which the exact knowledge of particular appearances as well as terrestrial substances entirely depends. This description of science may fairly be considered as appertaining to physics; but does not all physical knowledge, in which no system is admitted, form part of the History of Nature?

In a subject of great magnitude, whose relative connections are difficult to trace, and where some facts are but partially known, and others uncertain and obscure, it
is