

advantage ; when it was asked them, why this useless profusion of the shoots of human beings ? they answered, that it was only consonant with the common munificence of nature : that out of many millions of seeds which plants and trees produce, but a very few succeed, and therefore we must not be surprised at the same circumstance in spermatic animals. When the infinite minuteness of the spermatic worm, compared to man, was objected to them, they answered, by the example of the seed of trees ; and they added, with some foundation, metaphysical reasonings, by which they proved that great and small being only relations, the transition from small to great, or from great to small, was executed by nature with still more facility than we can conceive.

Besides, continue they, have we not very frequent examples of transformation in insects ? do we not see small aquatic worms become winged animals, by only throwing off their coats, which were their apparent and external forms ? and may not spermatic animals, by a similar transformation, become perfect animals ? All therefore, they conclude, concurs to favour this system of generation, and confuting that founded on eggs ; and if there are eggs in vivi-