

same fund, which is inexhaustible, but the means she employs to stamp its value are different, and these differences, or general agreements, deserve attention, because it is from thence we must derive our reasons to account for exceptions and particular varieties.

In general large animals are less productive than small. The whale, elephant, rhinoceros, camel, horse, the human species, &c. only produce one, and very seldom two, at a birth; whereas small animals, as rats, herrings, insects, &c. produce a great number at a time. Does not this difference proceed from there being more food required to support a large body than to nourish a small one, and from hence the former has less superfluous organic particles, which would convert into semen, than the latter? It is certain that small animals eat more in proportion than large ones; but it is likewise probable that the prodigious multiplication of the small animals, as bees, flies, and other insects, may be attributed to their being endowed with very fine and slender limbs and organs, by which they are in a condition to chuse what is most substantial and organic in the vegetable or animal matters from whence they derive their nutriment. A