

ciple of which is the necessity there is for the long intercourse between parents and children : that this intercourse is very short with the ape ; that, like other animals, he only receives an education purely individual, and is not susceptible of any other ; consequently he cannot act like man, since no action of the ape has the same principle, nor the same end. With respect to imitation, which appears to be the strongest and most striking character in the ape kind, and which the vulgar refer to him as a peculiar talent, before we decide, we must examine whether this imitation be spontaneous or forced. Does the ape imitate the human species from inclination, or from possessing an innate capacity of performing those actions without choice or exertion? I willingly appeal to all those who have observed this animal without prejudice, and I am convinced they will agree with me, that there is nothing voluntary in their imitation. The monkey having arms and hands, makes use of them as we do, but without any idea of copying our example. The similitude of his limbs and organs necessarily produces motions resembling ours ; being formed like man he must be enabled to move like him ; but this similarity of motion by no means proves that he acts from imitation.