

continually engaged in removing those which might by their presence prevent or derange its operations; and, on the other hand, so soon as the vital principle deserts the body which it has animated, the latter immediately becomes subject to the agencies which act on inorganic matter: “in obedience to the power of gravitation the bough hangs down, and the slender stem bends towards the earth,—the animal falls to the ground,—the pressure of the upper parts flattens those on which they rest,—the skin becomes distended, and the graceful outlines of life are changed for the oblateness of death,”\* — the laws of chemistry then begin to operate, — putrefaction takes place, — and, finally, dust returns to dust, and the spirit of man to Him who gave it.

3. **DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS OF ANIMALS AND VEGETABLES.**—I have thus briefly described a few of the phenomena peculiar to organic existence; it will now be necessary to offer some remarks on the distinguishing characters of the animal and vegetable kingdoms, for unless we have a clear perception of the phenomena peculiar to each, we shall not obtain correct ideas of the nature of zoophytal organization.

When we compare together those animals and vegetables which are considered as occupying the highest stations in each kingdom, we perceive that they differ from each other in particulars so obvious

\* Dr. Fleming. *Philosophy of Zoology*, 2 vols. 8vo.