

of skill and power in conquering the difficulty—but the surpassing marvel is that it should be a difficulty which Himself had created. The expectation that under a regime of Infinite wisdom, the greatest ends are brought about by the simplest of means, is to all appearance violated in the case of every physiological structure. And the confident maxim that such a simplicity best comports with the highest intelligence would therefore appear to land us in a reflection against the attributes of the Deity.

13. There is nothing however in this train of reflection, which can invalidate the argument for the existence of a God, possessed of inimitable skill and power, and who has put forth these attributes on the formation of the many exquisite structures which are before our eyes. All the efforts of human art cannot approximate even by the most distant imitation to the execution of such mechanism, as we see diversified into many thousands of distinct specimens both in the animal and vegetable kingdoms; and all of which attest by their manifold collocations, that they had been designed in the counsels, and formed by the fingers of an Artificer, whose thoughts are not as our thoughts and whose ways are not as our ways. It is a very profound enigma to us, why the actual matter of the world should require such peculiar treatment, ere it can be vivified either into an animal or vegetable. Yet there is an unquestionable good in such a constitution of things. It yields to us a resistless inference as to the Being of a God, however much it may darken the nature both of