

of galvanism, for instance, to the head of an ox recently killed, his mouth opened with a bellowing noise; a linnet, that had lain dead for some minutes, was made to spring up, flutter its wings, and breathe six or eight minutes; and several times, criminals, after hanging by the neck until they were dead, have had all the muscles of their bodies put in violent motion, full and laborious breathing has been produced, and every muscle in the murderer's face has been thrown into fearful action, so that rage, horror, despair, and ghastly smiles were exhibited in his countenance in such a hideous combination as to produce sickness and fainting among the spectators.

Physiologists have in vain endeavored to explain by what principle the numerous distinct parts, solid and fluid, that are found in animals and plants, can be separated from the blood and the sap. They could see that most delicate and complicated chemical operations must be concerned; but the question was, by what secret power these operations were accomplished. Galvanism throws at least a glimpse of light upon the subject. The galvanic fluid, when passing through bodies, especially those in solution, exerts an astonishing power of decomposing or separating them into their elements, and thus giving those elements an opportunity to form new combinations. And, indeed, I know of nothing more wonderful in the whole records of science than this mysterious power. Now, may it not be that every animal and every plant contains within its organization a galvanic combination, sufficiently powerful to elaborate all the secretions which its nature requires? Indeed, the most distinguished philosophers of our day have suggested that in animals the brain may be this electric pile, which sends along the nerves, as conductors, its successive shocks, whereby the pulsations of the heart are produced, and