

CHAPTER IX.

Miscellaneous Evidences of virtuous and benevolent Design, in the Adaptation of External Nature to the Moral Constitution of Man.

1. It will be enough, if, after having led the way on a new territory of investigation, we shall select one or two out of the goodly number of instances, as specimens of the richness and fertility of the land. We have already endeavoured to prove, why a number of distinct benefits, even though reducible by analysis into one principle or law, still affords, not a solitary, but a multiple evidence, of the wise and benevolent Creator.* This evidence, in fact, is proportioned to the number, not of efficient but final causes in nature—so that each separate example of a good rendered to humanity, in virtue of its actual constitution, may be regarded as a separate and additional evidence of its having been formed by an artificer, at once of intelligent device and kind purposes. The reduction of these examples into fewer laws does not extenuate the argument fo

* Introductory Chapter. Art. 27, 28, 29.