

end in which they terminate. It is thus that we seem to judge, on the instant, of distances, as if under a guidance that was immediate and instinctive, and not by the result of a derivative process—because insensible to the rapid train of inference which led to it. The mind is too much occupied with the information itself, for looking back on the light and shadowy footsteps of the messenger who brought it, which it would find difficult if not impossible to trace—and besides having no practical call upon it for making such a retrospect. It is thus that, when looking intensely on some beautiful object in Nature, we are so much occupied with the resulting enjoyment, as to overlook the intermediate train of unbidden associations, which connects the sight of that which is before us, with the resulting and exquisite pleasure that we feel in the act of beholding it. The principle has been much resorted to, in expounding that process by which the education of the senses is carried forward ; and, more especially, the way in which the intimations of sight and touch are made to correct and to modify each other. It has also been employed with good effect in the attempt to establish a philosophy of taste. But these rapid and fugitive associations, while they form a real, form also an unseen process ; and we are not therefore to wonder, if, along with many solid explanations, they should have been so applied in the investiga-