

that of a higher class ; though the brain of an individual of a higher is frequently not developed beyond the degree of a lower : and this law of the developement of the brain is, with reference at least to the distinction of classes, correspondent with that of the general form. Thus a *lusus naturæ* or monster in the class of quadrupeds, for instance, or of birds, may have two heads, or eight legs ; but the supernumerary parts will be always those of its own class, indeed of its own species : and therefore it is absurd to suppose that if there be no mixture of species in the same class, there should ever be a confusion of two distinct kingdoms of nature.

Horace, than whom no one better understood the principles of imaginative or artificial poetry, knew that abrupt combinations of heterogeneous subjects would certainly offend a correct taste, because unnatural : for taste, it may be affirmed, is, in one of its essential attributes, a feeling in harmony with natural combinations ; whether the individual combination be that of sounds, or colours, or forms, or of intellectual images, or moral sentiments : and nature, which may be preeminently called the τέχνη ποιητική, though she may occasionally surprise the mind by unusual combinations of organs natural to the species, never so couples together heterogeneous organs, as that the limbs of animals of one species should be united with those of another species ;