

the plant as excludes the admission of light beyond the exterior leaves. And, again, if a branch of ivy or of any spreading plant happen to penetrate during the progress of its vegetation into a dark cellar, or any similar subterraneous situation, it is observable, that, with the total loss of colour, its growth advances with great rapidity, but its proportions alter to such a degree as often to mask its original form. And, lastly, which in a practical point of view is of the greatest importance, if a plant which has grown without the influence of light be chemically examined, its juices, it might almost be said its whole substance, would be found to consist of little else than mere water; and, whatever odour it may have, is characteristic, not of its original nature, but of its unnatural mode of growth; becoming, in short, very like that of a common fungus. The total result is, that all the native beauties and uses of a vegetable growing under these circumstances are lost: the eye is neither delighted by any variety or brightness of colour; nor is the sense of smell gratified by any fragrance: the degeneracy of its fibre into a mere pulp renders it unfit for any mechanical purpose; and the resinous and other principles on which its nutritive and medicinal virtues depend, cease to be developed. In some instances, however, the bleaching or *etiolation* of plants is useful in correcting the acrid taste which be-