

particularly the importance of some of the foregoing species, to any one at all conversant with the general mode of life of Europeans as to food: and a slight acquaintance with the history of the world is sufficient to shew us, that, what wheat and the potato are to Europe, rice is to a considerable portion of Asia, Africa, and America; and the products of the date and cocoa, palms, &c. to the inter-tropical countries of the whole earth. But there are some natural analogies afforded by those species, with reference to the animal kingdom, which are well worthy of observation.

In the animal kingdom all those species which serve extensively for food, as oxen and sheep and swine among quadrupeds; the turkey, the common fowl, and the duck, &c. among birds; and the salmon, cod, herring, &c. among fish, are either naturally of a gregarious nature, or are easily kept together, by human means, in large bodies; and therefore are much better adapted to the purpose of supplying food to man, than if they were either solitary, or scattered into small groups. And so it is with respect to the vegetable species above described: they are capable of being cultivated, gregariously as it were, with comparatively little labour and attention. Thus in our own, and other European countries, the daily labourer, after his hours of hired work for others, can cultivate his own private field of