

new light: we are sensible of a renewed impulse, a gratification which interferes with no duty.

We may take this opportunity to correct the notion which some have expressed, of imperfection in the structure of certain animals; an idea which has sprung from considering them in comparison with ourselves, our structure, and sensibilities, instead of looking on them with reference to their peculiar conditions.

On comparing some of the present races of animals with the fossil remains of individuals of the same family which are extinct, Buffon has expressed some singular opinions on their imperfections; and they have, with some reserve, been adopted even by Cuvier. The eloquent Buffon speaks confidently of the unsuitableness of the organs of animals, and the derangement of their instincts. He compares them with the state of human society, where individuals are subject to misery and want. He sympathizes too closely with the bird of prey when he characterises its watchfulness as a lively picture of wretchedness, anxiety, and indigence. If a bird refuses to be domesticated and crammed with meat, it is hardly fair in him to accuse it of gloom and apathy, when the simple fact is that he is treating it in a manner contrary to its natural habits and instincts. The animals I allude to, as more particularly connected with our subject, are of the tardigrade family; the