

nature :—an imperfection in man's condition at variance with the benevolence which is manifested in all other parts of animated nature.

I have sometimes thought it possible, that a greatly extended survey of nature may humble too much our conceptions of ourselves ; and that this requires to be corrected by the study of things more minute, and in which we are more directly concerned : by dwelling on the perfection of the frame of the animal body and the marvellous endowments of the living properties. When we have formed some estimate of the immensity of the heavenly bodies, we are struck with admiration in following the successive advances made in the science :—an improvement in the curves of the glasses of the telescope, a new mode of polishing the reflecting surfaces, a change in the chemical composition of the glasses, or a more perfect adjustment of their dispersive powers—leads to the discovery of circle beyond circle of worlds interminably. We fan the imagination and labour to comprehend the immensity of the creation, and fall back with the impression of the littleness of all that belongs to us : our lives seem but a point of time, compared with the astronomical and geological periods, and we ourselves, as atoms, driven about, amidst unceasing changes of the material world.