

which secure, on the whole, the greatest and most permanent good. There can be no doubt that the scheme, by which one animal is made directly conducive to the subsistence of another, leads to the extension of the benefits of existence to an infinitely greater number of beings than could otherwise have enjoyed them. This system, besides, is the spring of motion and activity in every part of nature. While the pursuit of its prey forms the occupation, and constitutes the pleasure of a considerable part of the animal creation, the employment of the means they possess of defence, of flight, and of precaution, is also the business of a still larger part. These means are, in a great proportion of instances, successful; for, wherever nature has inspired sagacity in the perception of danger, she has generally bestowed a proportionate degree of ingenuity in devising the means of safety. Some are taught to deceive the enemy, and to employ stratagem where force or swiftness would have been unavailing: many insects, when in danger, counterfeit death, to avoid destruction; others, among the myriapoda, fold themselves into the smallest possible compass, so as to escape detection. The tortoise, as we have already seen, retreats within its shell, as within a fortress; the hedge-hog rolls itself into a ball, presenting bristles on every side; the diodon inflates its globular body for the same purpose, and floats on the sea, armed at all the points of its surface; the cuttle-fish screens itself from pursuit by effusing an intensely dark coloured ink, which renders the surrounding waters so black and turbid as to conceal the animal, and favour its escape; the torpedo defends itself from molestation by reiterated discharges from its electric battery; the butterfly avoids capture by its irregular movements in the air, and the hare puts the hounds at fault by her mazy doublings. Thus does the animated creation present a busy scene of activity and employment: thus are a variety of powers called forth, and an infinite diversity of pleasures derived from their exercise; and existence is, on the whole, rendered the source of incomparably higher degrees, as well as of a larger amount of enjoyment, than ap-