

superadded the still more subtle and potent agencies of caloric and of electricity : every resource has been employed, every refinement practised, every combination exhausted that could ensure the stability, and prolong the duration of the system, amidst the multifarious causes which continually menace it with destruction. It has been supplied with ample means of repairing the accidents to which it is ordinarily exposed ; it has been protected from the injurious influence of the surrounding elements, and fitted to resist for a lengthened period the inroads of disease, and the progress of decay.

But can this, which is mere physical existence, be the sole end of life? Is there no farther purpose to be answered by structures so exquisitely contrived, and so bountifully provided with the means of maintaining an active existence, than the mere accumulation and cohesion of inert materials, differing from the stones of the earth only in the more artificial arrangement of their particles, and the more varied configuration of their texture? Is the growth of an animal to be ranked in the same class of phenomena as the concretion of a pebble, or the crystallization of a salt? Must we not ever associate the power of feeling with the idea of animal life? Can we divest ourselves of the persuasion that the movements of animals directed like our own, to obvious ends, proceed from voluntary acts, and imply the operation of an intellect, not wholly dissimilar in its spiritual essence from our own? In vain may Descartes and his followers labour to sustain their paradox, that brutes are only automata,—mere pieces of artificial mechanism, insensible either to pleasure or to pain, and incapable of internal affections, analogous to those of which we are conscious in ourselves. Their sophistry will avail but little against the plain dictates of the understanding. To those who refuse to admit that enjoyment, which implies the powers of sensation, and of voluntary motion, is the great end of animal existence, the object of its creation must for ever remain a dark and impenetrable mystery ; by such minds must all farther inquiry