

comprehend, not merely those objects which are actually in contact with the body, but also those which are at a distance, and of the existence and properties of which it is highly important that the animal, of whose sensitive faculties we are examining the successive endowment, should be apprized. It is more especially necessary that he should acquire an accurate knowledge of the distances, situations, and motions of surrounding objects. Nature has accordingly provided suitable organizations for vision, for hearing, and for the perception of odours; all of which senses establish extensive relations between him and the external world, and give him the command of various objects which are necessary to supply his wants, or procure him gratification; and which also apprise him of danger while it is yet remote, and may be avoided. Endowed with the power of combining all these perceptions, he commences his career of sensitive and intellectual existence; and though he soon learns that he is dependent for most of his sensations on the changes which take place in the external world, he is also conscious of an internal power, which gives him some kind of control over many of those changes, and that he moves his limbs by his own voluntary act; movements which originally, and of themselves, appear in most animals, to be productive of great enjoyment.

To a person unused to reflection, the phenomena of sensation and perception may appear to require no elaborate investigation. That he may behold external objects, nothing more seems necessary than directing his eyes towards them. He feels as if the sight of those objects were a necessary consequence of the motion of his eye-balls, and he dreams not that there can be any thing marvellous in the function of the eye, or that any other organ is concerned in this simple act of vision. If he wishes to ascertain the solidity of an object within his reach, he knows that he has but to stretch forth his hand, and to feel in what degree it resists the pressure he gives to it. No exertion even of this kind is required for hearing the voices of his companions, or be-