

its back, in the attitude of a dead animal. In the course of a few minutes afterwards, he observed a vulture flying towards it, and alighting near it. Quite unsuspecting of the deception, the bird immediately proceeded to attack it, as usual, in the most vulnerable points. Failing in his object, he next, with much exertion, tore open the seams of the skin, where it had been stitched together, and appeared earnestly intent on getting at the flesh, which he expected to find within, and of the absence of which, not one of his senses was able to inform him. Finding that his efforts, which were long reiterated, led to no other result than the pulling out large quantities of hay, he at length, though with evident reluctance, gave up the attempt, and took flight in pursuit of other game to which he was led by the sight alone, and which he was not long in discovering and securing.

Another experiment, the converse of the first, was next tried. A large dead hog was concealed in a narrow and winding ravine, about twenty feet deeper than the surface of the earth around it, and filled with briars and high cane. This was done in the month of July, in a tropical climate, where putrefaction takes place with great rapidity. Yet, although many vultures were seen, from time to time, sailing in all directions over the spot where the putrid carcass was lying, covered only with twigs of cane, none ever discovered it; but in the mean while, several dogs had found their way to it, and had devoured large quantities of the flesh. In another set of experiments, it was found that young vultures, enclosed in a cage, never exhibited any tokens of their perceiving food, when it could not be seen by them, however near to them it was brought.*

It has been doubted whether fishes, and other aquatic animals, possess the sense of smell: in some of the whale tribe,

* Edinburgh New Journal of Science, ii. 172. The accuracy of these results, which had been contested by Mr. Waterton, is fully established by the recent observations and experiments of Mr. Bachman, which are detailed in Loudon's Magazine of Nat. Hist. vii. 167.