

tremity of that nerve. That this effect is actually produced, may be easily shown by direct observation; for if the sclerotic and choroid coats be carefully dissected off from the posterior part of the eye of an ox, or any other large quadruped, leaving only the retina, and the eye so prepared be placed in a hole in a window-shutter, in a darkened room, with the cornea on the outside, all the illuminated objects of the external scene will be beautifully depicted, in an inverted position, on the retina.

Few spectacles are more calculated to raise our admiration than this delicate picture, which nature has, with such exquisite art, and with the finest touches of her pencil, spread over the smooth canvass of this subtle nerve; a picture, which, though scarcely occupying a space of half an inch in diameter, contains the delineation of a boundless scene of earth and sky, full of all kinds of objects, some at rest, and others in motion, yet all accurately represented as to their forms, colours, and positions, and followed in all their changes, without the least interference, irregularity, or confusion. Every one of those countless and stupendous orbs of fire, whose light, after traversing immeasurable regions of space, at length reaches our eye, is collected on its narrow curtain into a luminous focus of inconceivable minuteness; and yet this almost infinitesimal point shall be sufficient to convey to the mind, through the medium of the optic nerve and brain, a knowledge of the existence and position of the far distant luminary, from which that light has emanated. How infinitely surpassing all the limits of our conception must be the intelligence, and the power of that Being, who planned and executed an instrument comprising, within such limited dimensions, such vast powers as the eye, of which the perceptions comprehend alike the nearest and most distant objects, and take cognizance at once of the most minute portions of matter, and of bodies of the largest magnitude!