

comparison may be fairly made, however, it is necessary to distinguish those actions which are the result of the exercise of the intellectual faculties, from those which are called instinctive, and are referrible to other sources. The actions of animals appear on various occasions, to be guided by a degree of sagacity not derivable from experience, and apparently implying a foreknowledge of events, which neither experience nor reflection could have led them to anticipate. We cannot sufficiently admire the provident care displayed by nature in the preservation both of the individual and of the species, which she has intrusted, not to the slow and uncertain calculations of prudence, but to innate faculties, prompting, by an unerring impulse, to the performance of the actions required for those ends. We see animals providing against the approach of winter, the effects of which they have never experienced, and employing various means of defence against enemies they have never seen. The parent consults the welfare of the offspring she is destined never to behold; and the young discovers and pursues without a guide that species of food which is best adapted to its nature. All these unexplained, and, perhaps, inexplicable facts, we must content ourselves with classing under the head of *instinct*, a name which is, in fact, but the expression of our ignorance of the nature of that agency, of which we cannot but admire the ultimate effects, while we search in vain for the efficient cause.

In all the inferior orders of the animal creation, where instincts are multiplied, while the indications of intellect are feeble, the organ which performs the office of the brain is comparatively small. The sensitive existence of these animals appears to be circumscribed within the perceptions of the moment, and their voluntary actions have reference chiefly to objects which are present to the sense. In proportion as the intellectual faculties of animals are multiplied, and embrace a wider sphere, additional magnitude and complication of structure are given to the nervous substance which is the organ of those faculties. The greater the power