

pended, and when their renewal, in that individual, is no longer possible.

But although the individual perishes, Nature has taken special care that the race shall be constantly preserved, by providing for the production of new individuals, each springing from its predecessor in endless perpetuity. The process by which this formation, or rather this apparent creation, of a living being is effected, surpasses the utmost powers of the human comprehension. No conceivable combinations of mechanical, or of chemical powers, bear the slightest resemblance, or the most remote analogy, to organic reproduction, or can afford the least clew to the solution of this dark and hopeless enigma. We must be content to observe and generalize the phenomena, in silent wonder at the marvellous manifestation of express contrivance and design, exhibited in this department of the economy of created beings.

Throughout the whole, both of the vegetable and animal world, Nature has shown the utmost solicitude to secure not only the multiplication of the species, but also the dissemination of their numbers over every habitable and accessible region of the globe, and has pursued various plans for the accomplishment of these important objects.

The simplest of all the modes of multiplication consists in the spontaneous division of the body of the parent into two or more parts; each part, when separated, becoming a distinct individual, and soon acquiring the size and shape of the parent. We meet with frequent examples of this process of *fissiparous generation*, as it is termed, among the infusory animalcules. Many species of *Monads*, for instance, which are naturally of a globular shape, exhibit at a certain period of their development a slight circular groove round the middle of their bodies, which by degrees becoming deeper, changes their form to that of an hour-glass; and the middle part becoming still more contracted, they present the appearance of two balls, united by a mere point. The monads in this state are seen swimming irregularly in