

CHAPTER IV.

UNITY OF DESIGN.

THE inquiries on Animal and Vegetable Physiology in which we have been engaged, lead to the general conclusion that unity of design and identity of operation pervade the whole of nature; and they clearly point to one Great and only Cause of all things, arrayed in the attributes of infinite power, wisdom, and benevolence, whose mighty works extend throughout the boundless regions of space, and whose comprehensive plans embrace eternity.

In examining the manifold structures and diversified phenomena of living beings, we cannot but perceive that they are extensively, and perhaps universally connected by certain laws of *Analogy*; a principle, the recognition of which has given us enlarged views of a multitude of important facts, which would otherwise have remained isolated and unintelligible. Hence naturalists, in arranging the objects of their study, according to their similarities and analogies, into classes, orders and genera, have but followed the footsteps of Nature herself, who in all her operations combines the apparently opposite principles of general resemblance, and of specific variety; so that the races which she has united in the same group, though possessed of features individually different, may easily be recognised by their family likeness, as the offspring of a common parent.

“Facies non omnibus una;
Nec diversa tamen; qualem decet esse sororum.”

We have seen that in each of the two great divisions, or