

kingdoms of organic nature, the same general objects are aimed at, and the same general plans are devised for their accomplishment; and, also, that in the execution of those plans similar means and agencies are employed. In each division there prevails a remarkable uniformity in the composition and properties of their elementary textures, in the nature of their vital powers, in the arrangement of their organs, and in the laws of their production and development. The same principle of analogy may be traced, amidst endless modifications of detail, in all the subordinate groups into which each kingdom admits of being subdivided, both in respect to the organization and functions of the objects comprehended in each assemblage, whether we examine the wonders of their mechanical fabric, or study the series of processes by which nutrition, sensation, voluntary motion, and reproduction are effected. To specify all the examples which might be adduced in confirmation of this obvious truth is here unnecessary; for it would be only to repeat the numerous facts already noticed in every chapter of this treatise, relative to each natural group of living beings; and it was, indeed, chiefly by the aid of such analogies, that we were enabled to connect and generalize those facts. We have seen that, in constructing each of the divisions so established, Nature appears to have kept in view a certain definite type, or ideal standard, to which, amidst innumerable modifications, rendered necessary by the varying circumstances and different destinations of each species, she always shows a decided tendency to conform. It would almost seem as if, in laying the foundations of each organized fabric, she had commenced by taking an exact copy of this primitive model; and, in building the superstructure, had allowed herself to depart from the original plan only for the purpose of accommodation to certain specific and ulterior objects, conformably with the destination of that particular race of created beings. Such, indeed, is the hypothetical principle, which, under the title of *unity of composition*, has been adopted and zealously pursued in all its consc-