

life could not be produced in any body.* Now, though heat, electricity, &c., are necessary to put the principle of life in motion, they evidently do not impart it. The seed of a vegetable, or the egg of a bird, have each of them, if I may so speak, a *punctum saliens*, a radiating principle, which, under certain circumstances, they can retain in a latent state, for a considerable time; but if once that principle is extinct, no application of heat, or electricity, under any form, can revive it, so as to commence any development of the germe it animated. Experiments have been made upon human bodies, and those of other animals, which, by the application of galvanism, after death, have exhibited various muscular movements, such as lifting the eye-lids, moving the arms and legs, &c., but though motions usually produced by the will acting by the nerves upon the muscles have thus been generated by a species of the electric fluid, proving its affinity with the nervous power or fluid, yet the subjects of the experiment, when the action was intermitted, continued still without life; no return of that power or essence which was fled for ever, being effected by it, which seems to render it clear that neither caloric nor electricity, though essential concomitants of life, form its essence.

I trust I may render some service to the cause of truth and science, if I again revert to the subject which I mentioned at the beginning of this introduction, I mean the study of the word of God, together with that of his works, with the view to illustrate one by the other.

The great and wonderful genius before alluded to, Lord Verulam, who laid the foundation upon which the proud structure of modern philosophy is erected, who banished from science the visionary theories of the speculator,† and the unfounded dogmas of the bigot, and made experiment, and, as it were, the anatomy of nature, the root of true

* Anim. sans Vertèbr. i. 43.

† Idola Specûs.