

nestle between our teeth, be busy everywhere, and perceived nowhere, till the invention of the microscope drew aside the veil between us and these entities, and we saw how God had filled all things with life, and had based the animal kingdom upon living atoms, as well as formed the earth and the world of inert ones. But to us the wondrous spectacle is seen and known only in part; for those that still escape all our methods of assisting sight, and remain members of the invisible world, may probably far exceed those that we know.

We may conclude that this vast, or rather infinite, host of animalcules was not created merely to be born and die; was not sown, as it were, over every part of the earth's surface, lurking in seeds, and other vegetable and animal substances, till coming into contact with fluid matter of whatever description it starts into life, and swarming in the ocean, and its tributary streams; it was not thus dispersed everywhere, either alive or in a state to revive and live, but for some great purpose, for which its organization, structure, and station amongst animals particularly adapt it.

With respect to its immediate action upon the vegetable and animal kingdoms, it has been ascertained, as to many species, that they ascend with the sap in vegetables,* and are found in the blood and excretions of animals,† who knows but they may act an important part in the animal frame? somewhat similar to what devolves upon the larves of certain insects, with regard to stagnant waters, they may be *depurators* where they are thus employed, and contribute to preserve a healthy action. It is true, as far as vegetables are concerned, especially grain, they appear to destroy

* Mr. Bauer found *Vibrio Tritici* in the stalk as well as in the ear and grain of plants of wheat, which were raised from seeds inoculated with it. Phil. Trans. 1823, 3.

† See above, p. 165.