

circumstances of individuals. When we see such paternal care manifested for the welfare and maintenance in existence of beings so frail that a mere touch would dissipate them, we cannot but assent to the observation of the Psalmist, that "*His tender mercies are over all his works,*" the least and most significant, as well as those that appear to occupy the most elevated place in the animal kingdom: and we may feel a comfortable assurance, built on this ground, that the eye which regards even these seemingly insignificant creatures will, if we cast not off our confidence, never overlook *us*, or be indifferent to *our* welfare.

The last and highest tribe, belonging to the present class, are those which are never united to each other, but are solitary in all stages of their existence. These, as well as the preceding ones, make a near approach to the real Molluscans, at least their external and internal envelope bears considerable analogy with that of bivalve shells, as Lamarck acknowledges, though they differ in having a distinct organization, the shells of bivalves having neither apparent vessels nor fluids, while, in these Tunicaries, the covering, both external and internal, in some species, exhibits vascular ramifications very conspicuously.

Though several of the animals belonging to the class of Tunicaries are interesting on account of their singularity and beauty, I shall only select two, one from the aggregated, and one from those that are simple, for description and further remarks, and then proceed to the great class of Molluscans. Who would think, asks Lamarck, that the *Pyrosome*, first observed by Peron and Le Sueur, was an assemblage of little aggregate animals? any one that looked at this animal, or at Savigny's figure of it,* would mistake it for a simple polype, with a number of leaf-like appendages

* Anim. sans Vertèbr. pl. iv. Fig. 7.