

should find as great a difference in the instruments and organs by which their life is supported and their kind continued, as in the animals themselves; and yet in all this diversity should trace a harmony and concatenation that would evidently prove the Wisdom that contrived, the Power that formed, and the Goodness that gave a living principle and breath of life to all these creatures, were each of them the attributes of an INFINITE BEING.

CHAPTER VIII.

FUNCTIONS AND INSTINCTS. BIVALVE MOLLUSCANS.

HITHERTO, in our progress from the lowest animals upwards, the mind has been perpetually submerged; not only every group, but every individual that we have had occasion to consider, has been an inhabitant of the waters, and to the great body of which a fluid medium is as necessary to life and action as an ærial one is to a land animal; but now we shall be permitted to emerge occasionally, for although the largest proportion of the animals forming the great class we are now to advert to, the *Molluscans*, are also aquatic, yet still a very considerable number of them are terrestrial, as a stroll abroad will soon convince us, when, after a shower, we find we can scarcely set a step without crushing a snail or a slug.

The term *Molluscan*,* was employed by Linné to designate his second class of worms,† which excluded all the shell-fish; and amongst real Molluscans included both Radiaries, Tunnicaries, and Worms; it literally signifies a nut or walnut, and therefore seems more properly applied to shell-fish than to animals which are defined as simple and naked. As now

* Mollusca.

† Vermes.