

undersood, it still comprehends a very wide range of animal forms, and it seems difficult to describe them by any character common to them all. Their Almighty Author, in the progress of his work of creation, linked form to form in various ways; he not only made an animal of a lower grade a stepping-stone towards one of a higher, and which formed a part of the ascent to man, the highest of all; but as the mighty work proceeded, he threw out on each side collateral forms that ascend by a different route, or begin one to a different order of beings. And this circumstance it is that has opened the door for so many systems and that diversity of sentiment with respect to the grouping of animals, which we meet with in the writings of the most eminent naturalists. Some proceed by one path and some by another, though the object of all is the same, unless some bias from a favourite hypothesis interferes and diverts them from a right judgment.

The organization of the animals of the class we have just left, as we have seen, appears of a higher character than that of any of the preceding ones; traces of a heart appear; a nervous ganglion is detected between the mouth and anus, sending nerves to each; a regular respiratory system, by means of gills, becomes evident; but still the animal is furnished with no head, no eyes, and in numerous cases has no separate existence, but forms a branch of the general body—thus resembling a plant—from which it cannot dissociate itself and become an independent individual.

Indeed, when we enter the class of Molluscans, we find that the nearest affinities of the Tunicaries have likewise no head, and this circumstance appears to have induced Lamarck not only to separate them from the class as arranged by Cuvier, but also his whole family of headless Molluscans,\* of which he forms his two classes of *Cirripedes*†

\* Mollusca acephala.

† Cirripeda.