

Zoological Journal, has contended, with considerable strength of argument, that the moveable black points in the upper tentacles of snails, though he allows they may be their analogues, are not real eyes; but the Rev. L. Guilding, in a subsequent part of the same Journal, states, that the large strombs of the Caribbean sea have eyes furnished with iris and pupil, similar to those of birds and reptiles—that they have also a vitreous and aqueous humour, and a black pigment, which certainly prove them to be real eyes—their organ of hearing, he thought, was likewise distinct. The cowries also are said to have eyes, exhibiting both iris and pupil, as have some volutes.*

Giving these facts their due weight, I think we may conclude that the so-called eyes of snails, are real though imperfect visual organs. It appears to be the plan of the Creator,

. to ascend,
From small beginnings to a glorious end.

An organ is, as it were sketched out, in the lowest animal, as, for instance, a nervous system, which keeps developing and improving till it is brought to its acme in the highest: first we find in the polypes no nervous centre, but molecules every where dispersed; then the next form is a nervous collar round the œsophagus; next dispersed ganglions; then a ganglionic chord; and so on till we arrive at a regular brain and spinal marrow encased in a vertebral column. We may with reason therefore conclude, that the organ of vision when first planted would be a mere rudiment, though sufficient for the animal's purposes, and possessing few of the characters it exhibits when arrived at its most perfect form; these it keeps acquiring as it becomes more developed, or, to avoid misconception from nibbling critics, the Creator keeps

* *Voluta ethiopica*, Fig. 43, *a*.