

of air, however imperceptible by us; they can tell, by the slight rebound of the air, whether they are flying near any wall, or opposing body, or in free space, though their eyes be sealed or removed."* A similar observation was long ago made by Mr. Bingley.†

We see in the circumstances here detailed a remarkable instance of the Power, Wisdom, and Goodness of the Creator, in compensating for the absence or imperfection of one or more senses, by adding to the intensity of another, and in establishing its principal seat in organs so nicely adapted to derive most profit by the information communicated.

An animal nearly related to the vampyres, the *cat-ape*,‡ commonly called the flying cat, and by some the flying dog, though nearly related to the bats, and included by Cuvier in the same Family, differs essentially from them, in being furnished with organs formed by the skin of the flanks connected with the legs of each extremity, which are calculated for *suspension* rather than flight, being used, as Cuvier remarks, merely as a parachute, and thus belong to the *second* kind of wings, mentioned above. This animal, which climbs like a cat, vaults from one tree to another, by the aid of the above skin, which supports it in the air. The *petaurists*§ or flying squirrels, and the *phalangists*|| or flying opossums, are similarly equipped, and for a similar purpose. The common *squirrel*,¶ using its tail as a rudder, leaps with great agility from tree to tree, without the aid of this kind of parachute, the force of its spring being sufficient to counteract that of gravity. Providence has evidently added an organ of suspension, in the case of the three former animals, either because their vaults were necessarily longer, or because the greater weight of their bodies required it.

* Quoted in Lit. Gaz. Feb. 9, 1834.

‡ Galeopithecus.

|| Phalangista.

† Mem. of Brit. Quad. 34.

§ Petaurus.

¶ Sciurus vulgaris.