

that employment it was stated to turn that horn on one side\* out of the way.

But one of the most wonderful compensating contrivances and structures of divine Wisdom, Power, and Goodness, and which has excited the admiration of every age, is the *proboscis* of the *elephant*. The weight of the enormous head of this animal is such as to preclude its being employed, if it terminated in a common mouth, either to break the boughs of trees, or to crop the grass, for it could not easily be either elevated or depressed for these purposes; in its proboscis, however, it is supplied with an instrument that amply compensates this deficiency. Almost every one is aware that this beautiful organ, beautiful I mean for its structure,† answers a variety of purposes; that it is given by its Creator to this mighty animal to be to it an instrument almost of sight, of most delicate touch, of scent and breathing, of prehension as adroit as that of a hand; added to this, that by the extraordinary flexibility with which he has endowed it, it can not only be inflected inwards to carry things to its mouth, but be bent upwards, downwards, or laterally, to lay hold of things above, below, or on each side of it, and that by the assistance of a single finger at its extremity, it can take hold of any thing as readily as we do by the assistance of four fingers and a thumb. As the brain of these gigantic animals, compared with their bulk, is very small, it is thought, by modern zoologists, that their intellect has been exaggerated, and that it does not surpass that of dogs, and many other carnivorous animals. Others have imagined that their sagacity is wholly the result of their being provided with so wonderful an organ; but this organ would be of very little use without the *nervous* apparatus by which it is moved according to the will of the animal.

Amongst the *Ruminants*,—which appear to connect with

\* Sparrman, Voyage, ii. 98.

† Roget, B. T. i. 520.