

sider, that all the different animals combine to fulfil *one* great end, and to effect a vast purpose, all the details of which the human intellect cannot embrace, we are led further to acknowledge, that the whole was planned and executed by a Being whose essence is unfathomable, and whose power is irresistible.

I must here previously observe that, in considering this mysterious subject, we must avoid, as much as possible, building our theories upon facts which, if properly interpreted, are extraneous to the subject, and wear such an aspect of the marvellous, as to appear out of the regular course of nature, and the ordinary proceedings to which its instinct urges any animal. The cases here alluded to, if true, to the full extent of the statements concerning them, would rather indicate a particular interposition of Divine Providence, either to prevent some calamity, or to produce some blessing or benefit to the individuals concerned. Thus the account of Sir H. Lee's dog, mentioned by Mr. French,\* which saved its master's life, by taking and maintaining its station, which it had never before done, under his bed; and that given by Dr. Beattie, of a dog, who, when his master was in a situation of the most imminent peril, after fruitlessly attempting to save him, ran to a neighbouring village, and by significant gestures, at last prevailed upon a man to follow him, and saved his master's life. These, and many more such cases, can scarcely be regarded as belonging to the ordinary instinct of the species, for if it did, more murderers would be disappointed of their intended victim by the agency of his or her dog. I knew myself an instance, in which a most valuable life was saved by a dog, which, being condemned to the halter by a former master, and escaping from those appointed to despatch him, at last established himself, after repeated expulsion, in my friend's

\* Zool. Journ. i. 7.