

sun does not cause putrescent substances to exale unwholesome effluvia, the great body of labourers in these departments, we may say, are sent to bed for a time, till their labours are again necessary. So also in tropical countries, where drought and heat united are sufficient to do the work of nature's pruners and scavengers, by stopping vegetation, and immediately drying up animal and other substances, before putridity takes place, they then abstract themselves, and retreat to their winter quarters; but when the rainy season revives the face of nature, they return, each to exercise his appointed function, at the bidding of his Creator.

All these circumstances indicate an analogy between certain phenomena observable in the history of *plants*, and some of the instincts of *animals*; and tend to prove that the proximate cause of both may be very nearly related; and that as the immediate cause of the vegetable instinct is clearly *physical*, so may be that of the animal. With regard to all actions in the latter, which are the result of *intellect*, they, of course, are produced by some principle residing within, as when the senses guide it, or it exercises its memory; and these aid it in following the impulse of instinct. The greatest of modern chemists has observed, with respect to some such agent, "that the immediate connection between the sentient principle and the body may be established by kinds of ethereal matter, which can never be evident to the senses, and which may bear the same relation to heat, light, and electricity, that these refined forms or modes of existence bear to the gases."\* I may observe upon this passage, that the farther any matter is removed from our knowledge and coercion, the more powerful it really is. Thus liquids are more powerful than solids, gases than liquids, imponderable fluids than gases; and so we may keep ascending, till we approach the confines of *spirit*, which will

\* Consolations in Travel, 214.