

affection, which is almost universally exhibited by females for their progeny both before and after parturition; a feeling of affection not generally common to the males, or rather only in a few instances, as where the male bird assists the female in incubation. Yet this instinctive fondness, as soon as it ceases to be necessary, vanishes; except, as was before observed,* in the human species; a fact that seems to prove that it is not the result of the association of ideas, but of an impress of the Creator interwoven with the frame. But that this impress is by means of a physical interagent, seems to follow from this circumstance—that the *hen* shows the same instinctive attachment to the *ducklings* that have been hatched under her, that she would do to chickens, the produce of her own eggs; and if the newborn offspring of any mammiferous animal is abstracted from her, and another substituted, even of a *different* kind, the same affectionate tenderness is manifested towards it, as its own real offspring would have experienced. Now was it a metaphysical, and not a physical, impulse, surely this would not be the case. This is only one of many instances, which prove that instinct is not infallible: and, in truth, with regard to the higher animals, many associations may take place between the child and parent that help to endear the former to the latter. In the first place, the very circumstance of its being the fruit of her own bowels, and fed with milk from her own breast, must bind it to her by the tenderest of ties; especially as, at the same time, it relieves her from what is troublesome. There is something also in infant helplessness and infant gambols, calculated to win upon the doting mother. The subsequent alienation and estrangement of the female from her young, which takes place in all animals except man, appears, in the first instance, to be produced by their becoming troublesome and annoying

* See above, p. 174.