

tells us, indeed, *The stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times ; and the turtle, and the crane, and the swallow, observe the time of their coming ;** but God, who decrees the end, appoints the means, which often remain amongst his *Secret Things*. Yet, though the immediate agent that guides the swallow over the expanse of water, from the torrid to the temperate zone is latent, we may still inquire, when she has made the shores of Britain, what is it that urges her to seek her old vicinity, and to build her nest in the very spot where she herself first drew breath, as Dr. Jenner's experiments prove that swallows do?† Here may we not conjecture that her intellect and memory become her guides? She recognizes the spot in which she committed herself to the sea breeze ; and there, probably, again flies inland, and will have no great difficulty in pursuing the line of country which leads to her native village, and to the very roof under the eaves of which she was born.

But of all the instincts of the feathered part of the creation, there is none more remarkable, more varied, and more worthy of admiration, than that which directs them in the situation and structure of their nests. One nidificates upon the ground ;‡ another under ground, or in the sand ;§ some select the chimney or eaves of houses for their clay-built structures ;|| those gelatinous nests, which the Chinese epicures and orators so highly prize, are formed in caverns and dark places by the little bird,¶ whose work they are. The great majority, however, nidificate in trees and bushes, and where they are within reach their nests are carefully concealed.

The structure and materials of nests are also infinitely various, and may be considered to result, as well as all the

* Jer. viii. 7.

‡ *Motacilla Troglodytes*.

|| *H. rustica et urbana*.

† *Philos. Trans. ubi supr.* 16.

§ *Hirundo riparia*.

¶ *H. esculenta*.