

and similar substances, seem to be particularly appropriated to them by the will of their Creator. Of this description are slugs, earth-worms, and several others: these, therefore, they have in charge to keep within due limits. And thus, in their doleful retreats and hiding-places, they fulfil each its individual function, instrumental to the general welfare.

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## CHAPTER XXIII.

### FUNCTIONS AND INSTINCTS. BIRDS.

WE are now arrived at the highest department of the animal kingdom, the members of which are not only distinguished by a vertebral column, but also by *warm* red blood, and a more ample brain. This department consists of two great Classes, viz., those that are *oviparous*, and do *not* suckle their young; and those that are *viviparous*, which suckle their young till they are able to provide for themselves. The first of these Classes consists of the *Birds*, and the last of the *Quadrupeds*, *Whales*, and *Seals*, called from the above circumstance *Mammalians*. Man, though *physically* belonging to the latter Class, *metaphysically* considered, is placed far above the whole animal kingdom, by being made *in the image and after the likeness* of his Creator, receiving from him *immediately* a reasonable and immortal soul; and entrusted by him with *dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

Having, in a former chapter, given some account of those animals, to which the *waters* of this globe are assigned as their habitation and scene of action, I am now to consider those which their Creator has endowed with a power denied