

cumstances in which they are placed. The cawing of the rook, the croaking of the raven, the cooing of the dove, the warbling of the nightingale and the other singing birds, are all the result of their organization according to the plan and will of that Supreme Intelligence, infinite Love, Wisdom, and Power, which fabricated and fashioned them with this view as well as others, to give utterance to sounds that, mixed or contrasted, would produce a kind of universal concert, delighting the ear by its very discords.

It is said by a late writer, that the song of the same individual species of birds, in different districts, is differently modified. This, I should think, must be occasioned by a difference in the temperature, and other circumstances connected with the atmosphere.

Of all animals, birds are most penetrated by the element in which they move. Their whole organization is filled with air, as the sponge with water. Their lungs, their bones, their cellular tissue, their feathers—in a word, almost every individual part, admit it into their interstices.* Thus giving them a degree of specific levity that no other class of animals is endowed with, which, however, does not render them the sport of every wind that blows, for, by means of their vigorous wings, formed to take strong hold of the air; of their muscular force, the agility of their movements, and their powers of steerage by means of the prow and rudder of their little vessel, their head and tail, they can counteract this levity; and by these also, and by their great buoyancy, they can ascend above the very clouds, as well as descend to the earth; they can glide motionless through the air, or skim the surface of the waters; they can sport, at will, in the vast atmospheric ocean; they can dart forward in a straight line, or, like

* N. D. D'Hist. Nat. xxiii. 352.