

the butterfly, fly in a zigzag or undulatory one, and with ease take any new direction in their flight that fear or desire may dictate. Enveloped in soft and warm plumage, they can face the cold of the highest regions of the air; and the denser clad aquatic birds can also sail over the bosom of the waters, or plunge into them, without being wetted by them. All birds, especially those last mentioned, have a gland secreting an oily fluid, with which they anoint their feathers and repel the moisture.

There is no part of the history of these animals, in which the care of a fatherly Providence is more signally conspicuous than their love of their young, and their tender care of them till they can shift for themselves. But as I have already adverted to this subject,* and shall hereafter have occasion to resume it, I shall now say something on the *classification* of the feathered race. It is singular that two Classes should be placed in opposition to each other, seemingly so opposite in their character and most of their qualities, as the Reptiles and the Birds—the one the most torpid and doleful and hateful of animals, symbols of evil demons; the other the most lively and active, and beloved of all the creatures that God has made, symbols of the angelic host, and calling upon us to look upwards, and seek those joys that are above us. But in spite of this apparently striking contrast, still there is a real affinity between the Birds and the Reptiles; and when we recollect that demons are fallen angels, we may apprehend why God has placed their symbols in the same series.

Zoologists are not altogether agreed as to which of the Reptiles come the nearest to the Birds: the beak, and some other characters of the *Chelonians*, have been thought

* See above, p. 191—193.