

in the eye of the sun ; it was about mid-day, and bright for this climate. They at first made small circles, and the young birds imitated them ; they paused on their wings, waiting till they had made their first flight, and then took a second and larger gyration, always rising towards the sun, and enlarging their circle of flight so as to make a gradually extending spiral. The young ones still slowly followed, apparently flying better as they mounted ; and they continued this sublime kind of exercise, always rising, till they became mere points in the air, and the young ones were lost and afterwards their parents to our aching sight.”\*

What an instructive lesson to Christian parents does this history read ! how powerfully does it excite them to teach their children betimes to look toward heaven and the Sun of righteousness, and to elevate their thoughts thither more and more on the wings of faith and love ; themselves all the while going before them, and encouraging them by their own example.

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## CHAPTER XXIV.

### FUNCTIONS AND INSTINCTS. MAMMALIANS.

WE are now arrived at the last and highest Class of the animal kingdom, to which man himself belongs, and of which he forms the summit : but though he may be said to belong to it in some respects, in others he stands aloof from it, as an insulated animal, and one exalted far above it, being created rather to govern its members, than to be the associate of the highest of them.

This Class includes many animals which are of the greatest

\* Salmonia, 99.