

At the commencement of this Introduction, we have given a simple statement of the train of reasoning, on which we found our belief of the agency of an intelligent Creator.

An act, performed by ourselves, when directed to a certain end, we term an act of design. Among the objects of nature, we see the *same* end, attained by the employment of the *same* means, we ourselves employ. We are conscious of the will and the power which are requisite for the accomplishment of our own act; and are satisfied regarding the impossibility of that act, without our own, or similar agency. We thence infer, that without some external agency, (implying a will and a power, similar to the will and the power exerted by ourselves), an act, similar to our own act, could not have been accomplished. Our belief then, in the agency of an intelligent Creator, is founded,—

On our recognition of the identity of effects produced in external nature, with effects produced by ourselves; from which identity of effect, we immediately infer identity of purpose,—the *existence of design*, without reference to a designer :

On our consciousness that the purpose effected by us proceeded from ourselves, the designers; whence we conclude, that the design manifested in external nature must have had a like origin,—