

the crystallized form, and become diamonds; the whole order of nature would be subverted, and the whole of the present arrangements be involved in ruin. Those who deny the argument of design, of course consider such suppositions as these absurd; and if carried too far, they doubtless, under any circumstances, lose much of their effect; but admitting the argument of design, the judicious application of such suppositions, is well calculated to place the advantages, and effects of certain arrangements in a more striking point of view, than can be obtained by any other means. More especially, such suppositions, by showing the wonderful adaptations of subsequent creations, to prior existences, are admirably calculated to illustrate their fitness, and consequently, the *apparent* design, displayed in the formation of the prior existences; and thus to show, that these prior existences must have been created with reference to ulterior purposes.

The argument of prior arrangements, and of the subsequent adaptation of other creations to these arrangements, is one of such interest; its consequences, also, are so important; that perhaps it may not be deemed irrelevant, if, for further illustration, we recapitulate the argument in a condensed form. For this purpose, we shall select the obvious and familiar relation of plants and animals to water and air.