

expect to find utter sterility, *number*, in some degree, compensates for *magnitude*. Thus, instead of the single stupendous tuft of the palm, we have the numerous congregated buds of our deciduous trees; instead of the gigantic and solitary grasses of the torrid zone, we have the smaller and gregarious varieties. Some of these varieties, as the *Cerealia*, or Corn tribe, with their myriads of seeds, give us an inexhaustible supply of farinaceous aliment; while others, as the Grasses properly so called, clothe our meadows with verdure, even to extreme latitudes; and are equally productive of matter purely herbaceous. In the warmer parts of the temperate zone, the Olive and the Vine afford the oleaginous and the saccharine principles, under a form, different, but not less useful than the oil and the sugar of the tropics; while in the colder parts, various seeds, and hardy fruits, produce an ample store of the same valuable articles, though in a condition still further modified.

In the preceding sketch we have intentionally kept out of view the existence of animals, that we might here ask the question,—Of what use is all this amazing exuberance of superfluous matter throughout the globe? The adaptation of plants to the climates in which they flourish, is evidently the work of an intelligent Creator. But can this apparent waste of materials, and of labour, be reconciled with the same wise