

ments clearly demonstrate, that there are no pre-existing germs, and at the same time prove that the generation of animals and vegetables is not equivocal ; there are, perhaps, as many beings, either living or vegetating, which are produced by the fortuitous assemblage of organic molecules, as by a constant and successive generation. It is to those productions we should apply the axiom of the ancients, "*Corruptio unius, generatio alterius.*" The corruption and composition of animals and vegetables produce an infinite number of organized bodies ; some, as those of the calmar, form only kinds of machines, which, although very simple, are exceedingly active ; others, as the spermatie animalcules, seem by their motion, to imitate animals ; others imitate vegetables by their manner of growing or extending ; there are others, as those of blighted corn, which may be made to live and die alternately, and as often as we please ; there are still others, even in great quantities, which are at first kinds of vegetables, afterwards become species of animals, then return again to vegetables, and so on alternately. There is a great appearance, that the more we shall observe this race of organized beings, the more we shall discover varieties,