

to be made with order: Nature, therefore, even in her errors, mistakes as little as possible.

This harmony of position in the double parts of animals is found also in vegetables; branches shoot out from buds on every side; the veins in the leaves are equally disposed as to the principal vein; and although symmetrical order appears to be less exact in vegetables than in animals, it is only because it is more varied, and its limits are more extended, and less precise; but we may nevertheless easily discover this order, and distinguish the simple and essential parts from those which are double, and the latter we must regard as having taken their origin from the former. We shall more fully discuss this point, as far as relates to vegetables, when we come to treat of them.

It is not possible to determine under what form the double parts exist before expansion, nor in what manner they are folded, nor what figure results from their position by connection with the simple parts. The body of the animal, in the instant of formation, certainly contains every part which is to compose it; but the relative position of these parts must be very different then from what it becomes afterwards. It is the same with vegetables, for if