

we observe the expansion of a young leaf, we shall perceive that it is folded on both sides the principal vein, and that its figure does not resemble at that time what it afterwards assumes.

When we amuse ourselves by folding paper to form crowns, boats, &c. the different folds of the paper seem to have no resemblance to the form which must result by the unfolding; we only see that these folds are always made in an uniform order, and exactly the same on one side as that we have made on the other; but it would be a problem beyond known geometry, to determine the figures which may result from all the unfoldings of a certain given number of folds. All what immediately relates to the position, is beyond our mathematical sciences. This art, which Leibnitz calls *Analysis Situs*, is not yet found out; though the art, which would shew us the connections that result from the position of things, would perhaps be more useful than that which has only bulk for its object, for we have often more need to know the form than the matter.

In the unfolding of Nature's productions, not only the folded parts take new positions, but they acquire, at the same time, extent and solidity. Since we cannot therefore deter-