

of posterity. "Linné," he says, "decided that they (zoophytes) were between vegetables and animals: vegetables with respect to their stems, and animals with respect to their florescence. This idea is still entertained."* Before we notice the manner of its reception by Ellis, we may take a short review of the writings of some other of the opponents of the latter naturalist.

Ellis had indeed effected a revolution in the opinions of scientific men, but there were some even of considerable reputation who either wavered between the old and new, or continued to hold the notions of their fathers,† which, however, very few ventured to maintain publicly. Of these the only one who merits our particular notice is Dr Job Baster of Zurichsee in Zealand, who seems to have been very imperfectly qualified for the task he had undertaken. At first he boldly asserted the vegetability of all zoophytes, attempted to prove that the Sertulariæ were really articulated Confervæ, and that the little animals observed on them were merely parasites, which had as little to do with the formation of the object they rested on, as the maggots in a mushroom had to do with its moonlight growth. These the results of his actual observation were set forth in a tone of arrogance calculated to wound the feelings and good fame of Ellis, nor is this conduct to be wondered at, for ignorance is usually as unfeeling as she is proverbially confident in her assertions, and the Dutch naturalist was truly very ignorant of all relating to the subject he attempted to elucidate. Unskilled in marine botany he actually mistook the objects of the enquiry, and instead of Sertulariæ set himself to examine true Confervæ,—a fact which the drawings illustrative of his paper demonstrate. His further experiments made him fully aware of this ridiculous error; and having become better acquainted with his subject,

* Pulteney's General view of the Writings of Linnæus, by Dr Maton, p. 560. Lond. 1805.

† Count Ginanni was one of these, and had the hardihood to question the accuracy of the observations of even Jussieu.—How far he was competent to observe himself will be made apparent to the zoophytologist by the following extract:—"Loco polyporum Bernardi de Jussieu, papillas septem glandulis consitas reperit, et mucum putat esse, quem vocant cornua: ex papillis vero pressis aqua, deinde lac pullulat, eademque ad corticem inseparabili nexu adhærent."—Hall. Bib. Bot. ii, 444.