

sea side, perhaps for a few days or hours, so that it is unreasonable to conclude, because they have been unsuccessful, that more accurate observers may not be more fortunate at another time."—Having thus disposed of an argument which he could not distinctly answer, Ellis goes on to notice the fact of the coralline which had been found on Bergummer heath in Friesland, and which the vagueness of the manner in which the discovery was announced permitted or warranted him to ascribe to accident; and he then concludes his admirable essay with a faithful and minute account of the fructification of the *confervæ*, and proves to a demonstration that when Baster and Pallas attributed a similar fructification to corallines, they had very erroneous ideas of the subject.*

The discussion rested here, and zoophytes, including the sponges and corallines, have been ever since enumerated among the subjects of the animal kingdom, although some, among whom Spallanzani may be particularized, continued in the belief that the corallines and the sponges were vegetables. But naturalists continue to be divided in opinion relative to the nature of acknowledged zoophytes, for many, of whom Bory de St Vincent may be considered the chief,† still speak of them as intermediate beings partaking of a twofold nature; while others, under the leading of Lamarck, defend their claims to pure animality. No new doctrine has been promulgated; neither indeed have the old been defended or attacked by any other facts or arguments than those already referred to, and with these before me I cannot hesitate to give my assent to the opinion of Ellis. No one denies that the polypes considered abstractedly from their polypidoms are really animals;—their quick and varied movements,—their great irri-

* Phil. Trans. Vol. lvii. p. 404, &c.—Pallas appears to have been convinced by this essay that the Corallines were animal; and he acknowledged that in reference to the land species he had been imposed on.—Lin. Corresp. i. 227, and 568. Yet it should be remembered that Captains Vancouver and Flinders observed on the shores of New Holland, at considerable heights above the level of the sea, arborescent calcareous productions which they considered to be corals. Peron says they are either corals or vegetables incrustated with calcareous matter; and Dr Clarke Abel has proved that they are the latter.—Edin. Phil. Journ. ii. 198.

† Encyclop. Method. ii, 647.—Cuvier in an early work gave countenance to this opinion, but in his *Règne Animal*, iii, 220, Paris, 1830, it is repudiated.