

growth. Such beings would be perpetual possessors of the earth and the waters, in their own persons, without any progeny. Only imagine such a world! Shall we say one, or some number, of each species? Quadruped, bird, reptile, fish, mollusc, zoophyte, insect of every kind, including all those invisible without microscopic aid: each immortal.

*b.* Life prolonged by vegetable food alone. But this would require a differently constituted vegetable world: for there is no plant on the land or in the sea, which does not nourish myriads of minute insects, which are destroyed in the eating of the plants.

*c.* Must there be any multiplication by progeny, upon any scheme? Then, either the whole number must be always extremely small; or be kept down in some inconceivable way; or would, after a time, multiply to that degree that there would not be room for them. The land and the waters would be over-filled!

(2.) Let the supposition be, that death take place, but only in the way of natural decay and old age; not by violence, as in becoming the prey of other animals. This seems to be the hypothesis of T. K. or that for which he wishes. But he certainly has not reflected upon the working out of this notion. The debility and decay of age require the nursing and soothing attentions of other individuals of the same species. But, except very imperfectly in a few instances of *quadrumana* and some domesticated animals, nothing appears in the brute creation analogous to the care and tenderness of man for man, in nursing and tending the sick or feeble. Even in the human species, unless where RELIGION breathes its vital influence, that class of duties is miserably attended to. Let your worthy correspondent ask the aid of some judicious physiologist, to assist him in weighing the opposite amounts of suffering, the one by natural and untended decay, the other by an almost instantaneous act of violence by another creature, in the full health and vigour of the devoured animal. He will find the very reverse of the estimation which he appears to have made. Besides, there is some reason to think that the first surprise produces a paralysis, by which the sense of pain is diminished, or wholly extinguished. I am not writing ludicrously; but seriously, as the subject requires.

But Geology furnishes cases of animal life extinguished upon a scale immensely large, by other processes than being devoted to furnish nutriment for other living creatures. The polishing stone called tripoli was till lately thought to be a siliceo-argillaceous rock; but it is now ascertained to be a congeries of microscopic many-chambered shells: and there are rocks of nummulitic limestone, and vast heaps of the shell *miliola* compressed into solid masses. The