

not only ordained to live, but to live surrounded with available pleasures, and double blessings are woven with his heaviest toil—those of the intellect and those of the senses. He sows and he plants for the relief of his wants, but he has an intellectual pleasure in watching and in accounting for the results, while the foliage and the blossom accord with his sensations of beauty, and the fruit is pleasant to his taste. These are the results of a symmetry in design; and we can scarcely conceive how great a disorder and disproportion would be produced by an alteration in one great principle, such, for instance, as the constitution of the atmosphere.

Allusion has already been made to the fitness of the atmosphere for the conveyance of light to the eye, which is not only necessary for the production of those pleasurable sensations which external nature is capable of affording, but also that the animal may be able to obtain its food, and preserve itself from those foes or dangers to which it may be especially exposed. It is quite true that animals have been provided with peculiarities in the formation of the eye, so as to enable them to fulfil the especial object of their creation; but, whatever may be the nature of these peculiarities, there are external adaptations suited to them all, and they are but particular illustrations of the same general principle. We may be chargeable with digression in so doing, but it is almost impossible to deny ourselves the pleasure of selecting an example. Take the vulture as the type of the whole class of animals to which it belongs, and, from what we know of its habits, we may expect it to have a peculiarly constituted vision. From its habitual residence in regions very far above the surface of the earth, it is necessary that it should have the power of seeing objects at a great distance; and as the distance between the point of the beak and the eye is small, it should also have the capability of seeing objects that are near. Both these powers it possesses in a most remarkable degree, being not only able to choose the part of the carcass upon which it will feed, but also to descend upon it, from a height at which the bird itself is scarcely visible to the human eye. It has therefore been furnished with a peculiarly constructed eye, and such a capability of adjustment, that it can adapt it to any distance that may be required. But the eye, however admirably formed, would be perfectly useless, were there not some medium by which the light could be conducted to it with a proper intensity