

longs to them in their natural state ; as in the case of endive and of celery.

The effect of light upon vegetation has been selected in the preceding paragraph as affording the most powerful instance of the adaptation of this natural agent to the physical condition of man. Its effects upon individuals of the mineral and animal kingdom are neither so easily to be traced, nor are nearly so important in their consequences, at least in a practical point of view ; and therefore it is not proposed to bring them forward in a more particular manner.

The observation of those modifications which light undergoes when reflected from the surfaces of bodies has given rise to one of those impressive arts which are capable of contributing no less to the refinement of society at large, than to the gratification of the individuals who cultivate or admire them. For who can look on the productions of such masters as Guido, Raphael, or Michael Angelo, without imbibing a portion of the spirit which animated those masters in the execution of their inimitable works ? or, if we quit the regions of imagination and of history, and descend from the higher efforts of the art into the retirement of domestic life, who can successfully describe those emotions which are excited by the portrait of a beloved object, a child or parent now no more ; or by the representation of that home and its surrounding