

and helpless of creatures. For, fixed as they are, both individually and collectively, to a completely local habitation; or, rather, buried as it were in a strong mass of coral, and literally

“ Each in his narrow cell for ever laid,”

their general appearance and mode of growth so little resemble the animal character, that, for a long time, many of the species were considered as of vegetable origin; and are, even now, very commonly called *zoophytes*, or animated plants.

Nor let us fail to observe, in the foregoing account, the physical fitness for each other of two very different departments of nature. The same geographical climate which gives birth to those animals, whose labours produce this previously unexpected habitable surface, gives birth also to those vegetables, which, at the same time that they are capable of growing on so loose and poor a soil, are capable besides of supplying its future inhabitants not only with nutritious food, both in a liquid and a solid form, but with materials for constructing their habitations, and for many other useful purposes. And in the mean time the fowls of the air, and the very winds and waves, are all employed in administering to the beneficent intentions of Providence. Of little use would be a new habitable surface, were it never to be tenanted by human beings; and in vain would man attempt to colonize that surface, were it barren of vegetable