

Lastly, another analogy may be observed with reference to the palate. The taste of the flesh of those species, which constitute to man the staple as it were of animal food, is acceptable to most palates. And it is neither so rich as soon to cloy the appetite on the one hand, or invite it to luxurious indulgence on the other; nor so devoid of flavour, as to deter us from taking a proper quantity. And is it not the same with respect to those vegetable species, which are among the most ordinary and most necessary articles of our food? If corn, and the potato, and the cocoa-nut, had the pungency of euphorbium, the nauseating quality of ipecacuan, the heat of pepper, or the lusciousness of sugar, on the one hand, or the insipidity of powdered chalk on the other; what an undertaking would it be to satisfy the craving of hunger with any one of those vegetables<sup>x</sup>!

It will be in vain to urge, in opposition to the foregoing position, that custom in particular instances renders many things tolerable, and even pleasing to the taste, which at first were disgusting; for it would be found that in such instances custom has arisen from necessity, which often brings us acquainted with strange com-

<sup>x</sup> On many occasions, however, pungent, or aromatic substances, as garlic, mustard, and spices, added to food comparatively of little flavour, as rice, &c. make it more palatable, and more easily digestible.