

and the structure of our stomach, shew, that our system is naturally adapted to a mixed food: and although those of our teeth, which resemble the corresponding teeth of carnivorous animals, are so little developed as to make it in that respect doubtful whether nature intended us to live on flesh; yet our stomach, and the rest of our apparatus of digestion, aided moreover by culinary preparation, certainly approximate us fully as much to the carnivorous as to the herbivorous classes. It is obvious, moreover, that we have an ample array of teeth for cutting and grinding vegetable matter. This then being the case, we might antecedently expect that our natural taste would lead us to enjoy the flavour of vegetable, as well as animal food; and that nature would supply us with a variety of the one as well as of the other; for variety itself is salutary.

And on this as on every occasion, we have an opportunity of seeing how Providence not only meets all the wants of mankind, but meets them in such a way as their local situation requires. Thus wheat, which contains a more strengthening principle of nutrition than the product of the palms and arrow-root, and is therefore better calculated to support the hardier efforts of the inhabitants of temperate or cold climates, will not grow readily in inter-tropical climates<sup>b</sup>; and, reciprocally, the palms and cognate plants of

<sup>b</sup> Desfontaines, *Flora Atlantica*, tom. ii. Appendix, p. 438.