

there has been a succession of animals gradually increasing in the perfection of their structure ; that the first impulse of nature was not sufficient to the production of the highest and most perfect, and that it was only in her mature efforts that mammalia were produced. We are led to this reflection : that the creation of a living animal, the bestowing of life on a corporeal frame, however simple the structure of that body, is of itself an act of creative power so inconceivably great, that we can have no title to presume that any change in the organization, such as the provision of bones and muscles, or the production of new organs of sense, is a higher effort of that power. We have a better guide in exploring the varieties of animated nature, when we acknowledge the manifest design with which all is accomplished ; the adaptation of the animals, their size, their economy, their organs, and instruments to their condition.

Whether we make the most superficial or most profound examination of animals in their natural state, we shall find that the varieties are so balanced as to ensure the existence of all. This, we think, goes far to explain, first, why the remains of certain animals are found in certain strata, which indicate a peculiar condition of the earth's surface ; and, secondly, why these animals are found grouped together. For, as we may express it, if there had been