unless we contemplate the influence of *life* itself, in collecting, arranging, and incessantly changing the material of the frame. Astounded by the magnitude of natural objects, bewildered by seeing neither beginning nor end, permitted only to witness those instances of decay which would almost persuade us that all objects in nature were given up to a power of destruction, it must be useful to have the proofs in the microcosm of the living body, that a system may be continued, whilst every portion of the substance suffers change.

Life draws the materials of the body apart from the influence of those affinities which hold the inorganic world together, and substitutes other laws. The wonders of the microscope are not greater than should be excited by looking to the early rudiments of some animal, it may be the largest that inhabits the earth. In a small portion of matter that seems homogeneous, transparent, soft, and like a jelly, there is only a pulsating point visible. What might be seen by employing the newly discovered properties of light, it is impossible to say; as polarized light exhibits in mineral bodies a structure not visible before, so we could imagine that some power bestowed upon our eye might discover a distinction of parts in what seems a drop of jelly. But the greater wonder is in proof before us, that this mass has a principle