

pursuit of prey, and powerful weapons for attack and destruction. But nature has not left the weaker animals unprovided with the means of repulse, of defence, or of escape. For these purposes various expedients, either of force, of swiftness, or of stratagem, have been resorted to in different cases.

That a large portion of evil is the direct consequence of this system of extensive warfare, it is in vain to deny. But although our sensibility may revolt at the wide scene of carnage which is so generally presented to our view, our more sober judgment should place in the other scale the great preponderating amount of gratification which is also its result. We must take into account the vast accession that accrues to the mass of animal enjoyment from the exercise of those powers and faculties which are called forth by this state of constant activity; and when this consideration is, combined, as it ought to be, with that of the immense multiplication of life which is admissible upon this system alone, we shall find ample reason for acknowledging the wisdom and the benevolent intentions of the Creator, who, for the sake of a vastly superior good, has permitted the existence of a minor evil.

From this system of hostilities there must also arise new relations among the different races of animals. It affords a ready and effectual means of preserving the proper balance between different races. Each separate species of animals, far from being isolated and independent, performs the part assigned to it in the system of nature, and, however apparently insignificant, may have a sensible influence on the rest of the animal creation. Man, above all other animals, has effected a most important change in the condition of the multitude of other races, in every region where his numbers have multiplied, where the arts of civilization have enlarged his dominion, and where science has armed him with still more extensive power.

In every department of nature it cannot fail to strike us that boundless variety is a characteristic and predominant feature of her productions. It is only when the object to