

INTRODUCTION.

OF THE LEADING ARGUMENT OF NATURAL THEOLOGY ; THAT DESIGN, OR THE ADAPTATION OF MEANS TO AN END, EXISTS IN NATURE.

A FULL exposition of the argument of design does not belong to this Treatise. In these introductory observations, we shall, therefore, confine ourselves to a statement of the argument, as deducible from a simple instance of the adaptation of means to an end, among the objects of nature : we shall then enquire into the validity of the argument of design ; and shall show the conclusions to which that argument leads.

The instance of adaptation of means to an end which we select among the objects of nature ; and the argument which may be deduced from that instance of adaptation, are the following :