

whether every thing we know, will enable us to make, even an approach, toward an explanation of what we see. It is indeed true, that the plant or animal we examine is composed of charcoal and water, and of other ingredients with which we are equally familiar; that it is liable to be affected by Heat, Light, Electricity, and by other inorganic agents. But it is perfectly ascertained that these elements and agents, out of an organized body, *and left entirely to themselves*, never would or could unite, either in virtue of their own properties, or from accident, so as to form any plant or animal however insignificant. Are we not then compelled to infer, that within a plant or animal, there exists a principle, or agent, superior to those whose operations we witness in the inorganic world; and which agent moreover possesses, under certain restraints, the power of controlling and directing the operations of these inferior agents? That this is a natural and a just inference, no one who calmly views all the circumstances will ever deny: and if the existence of one such agent be admitted, the admission of the existence of others can scarcely be withheld; for the existence of one only, is quite inadequate to explain the infinite diversity among plants and animals. Thus, in the words of the excellent Paley, "there may be many such agents, and many ranks of them:" in other words, there may be an ascending gra-