

tion of the materials composing their frame ; since the constituent elements of their food are already in that order which is adapted for their purpose. Hence the assimilating organs do not require the complication, which would otherwise have been necessary ; and much elaborate organization is saved. Striking illustrations of this abridgement of organization, are afforded by the differences before mentioned, between the assimilating apparatus of carnivorous and of graminivorous animals. According to the scale which this difference exhibits, we can form some conception of the complication which would have been requisite, to enable such an animal as man to feed, like a plant, on carbonic acid gas ; or carburetted hydrogen ; or on any other simple compound of carbon.

Another great purpose is effected by this arrangement regarding the food of animals ; without which, organization, as at present constituted, could hardly exist. If organized beings did not prey on each other, their remains would accumulate in such quantity, as to be nearly incompatible with life ; certainly with animal life in its most perfect condition, as it is at present known to us. But by the arrangement that animals are food to each other ; not only is an opportunity afforded, for the existence of a greater number of animals, and of a greater variety among them ; but the obtrusion of the bodies of animals, whose life has become extinct, is entirely prevented :