

are endowed with the capacity of compounding these proximate principles from matters still lower in the scale of organization, than the animals and plants themselves. Hence there is a series, from the lowest being that derives its nourishment from carbon and carbonic acid, up to the most perfect animal existing. Each individual in the series preferring to assimilate other individuals immediately below itself; but having, on extraordinary occasions, and in a minor degree, the power of assimilating all, not only below, but above itself, in the system of organized creation.

Thirdly. We stated that the immediate influence employed by the organic agent is probably galvanism, or the common agents operating among inorganic matters; and that the digestive apparatus, viewed as a whole, seems to be arranged on galvanic principles. We wish, however, our readers clearly to understand, that we consider the organic agent residing in the ganglionic system of nerves, and employing the electric agency, to be *not* electricity itself; though the ganglionic agency is probably the lowest kind existing in animal bodies, and only, as it were, one degree above the agencies of inanimate matter. We dwell on this point the more, because from deficient recollection of what electricity is, and what are the living powers acting through the nervous system of animals; it has been maintained, nay, has even been endea-