

he appears to have been puzzled what to make of zoophytes ; they were certainly not sea-weeds,—and it were too humiliating to adopt a once rejected theory,—when happily the *Systema Naturæ* came to his aid, and he instantly adopted with zeal the *vegeto-animal fancy*, because, he says, it illustrated in a wonderful manner other things which were previously obscure and incomprehensible, and because it was in perfect keeping with the doctrine which taught that animated beings were a series of links constituting one long chain that could not be broken without violation to the continuity of organization,—the different species being so closely connected on this side and that, that neither sense nor imagination can detect the line which separates one from the other. It must be allowed that in Baster the doctrine of Linnæus has found its best advocate. He tells us that in zoophytes there are too many signs of a perfect vegetation to permit us to believe that they can owe their origin to animalcules so minute as to require a microscope to see them, and the great simplicity of whose organization altogether unfits them for perfecting such works : and as from the law of continuity indicated above it was reasonable to presume the existence of beings in which the distinctions between animals and plants should meet and amalgamate, so by a comparison of their definitions it may be made obvious that these distinctions disappear in zoophytes. A plant is an organized body without sense or spontaneous motion, adhering by means of a root to some foreign substance whence it derives the material of its life and increase : an animal, on the contrary, is an organized body endowed with sensation and perception, which can, of its own free will, make certain movements peculiar to itself. Like the plant, zoophytes grow fixed by a root ; and yet at the same time they are animals, for they show when touched that they feel by some motion, and when they perceive food proper for them they seize and devour it by the action of certain members.

Having in this manner commended the theory to our favour, and shown its reasonableness and consonance to nature, Baster goes on to explain the manner in which he conceives his experiments prove that the *Sertulariadae* or flexible corallines grow. The ova or seeds of these zoophytes, he asserts, pullulate from the body of the mother in the likeness of tender articulations