

The production of a new *organ* in one of these, so formed, animal bodies, he ascribes to a new *want*, which continues to stimulate; and of a new movement which that want produces and cherishes.\* He next relates how this can be effected. Body, he observes, being essentially constituted of cellular tissue, this tissue is in some sort the matrix, from the modification of which by the fluids put in motion by the stimulus of desire, membranes, fibres, vascular canals, and divers organs, gradually appear; parts are strengthened and solidified;† and thus progressively new parts and organs are formed, and more and more perfect organizations produced; and thus, by consequence, in the lapse of ages, a monad becomes a man!!!

The great object both of La Place and Lamarck seems to be to ascribe all the works of creation to *second* causes; and to account for the production of all the visible universe, and the furniture of our own globe, without the intervention of a *first*. Both begin the work by introducing nebulosities or masses of matter scarcely amounting to real entities, and proceed as if they had agreed together upon the *modus operandi*.

As Lamarck's hypothesis relates particularly to the animal kingdom, I shall make a few observations upon it, calculated to prove its utter irrationality.

When, indeed, one reads the above account of the mode by which, according to our author's hypothesis, the first vegetable and animal forms were produced, we can scarcely help thinking that we have before us a receipt for making the organized beings at the foot of the scale in either class—a mass of irritable matter formed by *attraction*, and a *repulsive* principle to introduce into it and form a cellular tissue, are the only ingredients necessary. Mix them, and you will have an animal which begins to absorb fluid, and

\* Anim. sans Vertèbr. i. 181.

† Ibid. 184.