

rudiments of the organization of those tribes make their appearance. Many of the former are known to derive their nutriment from vegetable substances, but what the majority subsist upon is not certainly known; the latter class, the Rotatories, are ascertained to be predaceous, as above stated. Their mode of drawing their corpuscular food within the vortex of their mouth is thus amusingly illustrated by Spallanzani. As a certain species of whales, says he, (*sic magnis componere parva solebat*) after having driven shoals of herrings into a bay or strait, by a blow of its tail produces a whirlpool of vast extent and great rapidity, which draws the herrings into its vortex; the monster then presenting its open mouth, the herrings are precipitated into its throat, and it is soon satiated: so the carnivorous Infusories produce a vortex by their tentacles, and satisfy their appetite.

I have been more diffuse upon the history of the animals whose functions in nature I am next to consider, because to them in a more particular manner, applies Pliny's observation with regard to insects: *In his tam parvis, atque tam nullis, quæ ratio, quanta vis, quam inextricabilis perfectio!* In nothing is the power and wisdom of their Almighty Author more signally conspicuous. Organization so complex, and life, and spontaneous motion, and appetite, and means to satisfy it, and digestion, and nutrition, and powers of reproduction in animals of such infinite minuteness! Who can believe it? Yet so it is, and that each of these should be varied in the different tribes and genera: that these less than the least of all the creatures that present themselves to the observation of mankind, and which till within a century or two were not suspected to exist, should out-number beyond all statement of numbers, all the other animals together that people the whole globe: that they should probably enter into us and circulate in our blood,