

scarcely more than animated molecules,* and appear analogues of each other; and those above them in each kingdom represent jointed fibrils.† It is singular and worthy of notice, that the Creator, after the creation of inanimate matter, probably first imparted the living principle to bodies of the same form with the molecules and fibrils into which that matter is resolvable, thus uniting, by common characters, things essentially distinct, and preserving unbroken that wonderful chain which links together all created things.

Everybody who has eyes is aware, that vegetation takes place upon almost every substance, upon the bark of trees, upon naked rocks, upon brick walls and tiled roofs, and even upon glass when not constantly cleaned. The first plants, that take on these their station, usually look like green or yellow powder, when they decay forming a little soil, in which others more conspicuous find sufficient nutriment, and so one succeeds another, till a sufficient portion of soil covers the rock, &c. to afford the means of life and growth to more perfect plants, and often to arborescent ones. An analogous process takes place in the water. The *matière verte* of French authors makes its appearance, and other Hydrophytes, in conjunction with the Infusories, form as it were a first soil for the support and maintenance of animal life, both for those which derive their nutriment from vegetables, and those that feed on beings of their own class. Thus a maintenance is provided for higher forms, and, at last, for the highest; and a table is spread, both on the earth and in the waters, for every living thing, from that which the eye cannot discover, to man, the head and king of all.

How wonderful and adorable is that Almighty Being, who thus made all things dependent upon each other, and

* For instance, Globulina and Monas.

† Oscillatoria and Vibrio. See Appendix, Note 21.