

diverse kinds of creatures, rising one over another, by such a *gradual* and easy *ascent*, that the little transitions and deviations from one species to another are almost insensible. This intermediate space is so well husbanded and *managed*, that there is scarcely a degree of *perception*, which does not *appear* in some one part of the world of life. Now, if the scale of being rises, by such a regular progress, so high as man, we may, by a parity of reason, *suppose* that it still *proceeds* gradually through those beings, which are of a superior *nature* to him; leaving still, however, an infinite gap or chasm between the highest created being and the Power which produced him. In this system of being, there is no creature so wonderful in its *nature*, and which so much deserves our particular attention, as man, who fills up the middle space between the animal and intellectual nature—the visible and invisible world: so that he, who, in one respect, being associated with angels, may look upon a Being of infinite perfection as his father, and the highest order of spirits as his brethren, may, in another respect, say to corruption, “Thou art my father,” and to the worm, “Thou art my mother and my “sister.”

ADDISON.

LESSON III.

THE NATURE AND HABITS OF QUADRUPEDS.

THE greatest animals are made for inoffensive life, to range the plains and the forest without injuring others; to live upon the productions of