

INTRODUCTION.

The animal kingdom adorns the external parts of the earth with sentient beings. These have voluntary motion, respire air, are impelled to action by the cravings of want, by love, and by pain. They keep within proper bounds, by preying on them, the numbers both of animals and vegetables.

The latter of these kingdoms was subdivided by Linnæus into six classes, viz. mammiferous animals, which he called mammalia, birds, amphibious animals, fishes, insects, and worms.

The class of animals denominated MAMMALIA comprehends all those that nourish their young by means of lactiferous glands, or teats, and that have, flowing in their veins, a warm and red blood. It includes the whales, an order that, from external shape and habits of life, has usually been arranged among the fishes. It is true that these animals inhabit exclusively the water, an element in which none of the quadrupeds can long subsist, and are furnished like the fish with fins, still, however, in every essential characteristic, they exhibit an alliance to the quadrupeds. They have warm blood, produce their young alive, and nourish them with milk furnished from teats. In their internal structure they are likewise in a great measure allied to the quadrupeds, having similar lungs, and two auricles, and two ventricles to the heart.

Upon comparing the various animals of the globe with each other, we shall find that quadru-