

'Tuning sweet their mellow throats',
 Bid the setting sun adieu.—CUNNINGHAM.

SECTION XX.

The order of nature.

- SEE, thro' this air, this ocean, and this earth,
 All matter quick, and bursting into birth.
 Above, how high progressive life may go!
 Around, how wide! how deep extend below;
 Vast chain of being! which from God began,
 Nature ethereal, human; angel, man;
 Beast, bird, fish, insect, what no eye can see,
 No glass can reach; from infinite to thee,
 From thee to nothing.—On superior pow'rs
 Were we to press, inferior might on ours;
 Or in the full creation leave a void,—
 Where, one step broken, the great scale's destroy'd.
 From nature's chain whatever link you strike,
 Tenth or ten thousandth, breaks the chain alike.
- 2 And, if each system in gradation roll,
 Alike essential to the amazing whole,
 The least confusion but in one, not all
 That system only, but the whole must fall.
 Let earth, unbalanc'd from her orbit fly,
 Planets and suns run lawless thro' the sky;
 Let ruling angels from their spheres be hurl'd,
 Being on being wreck'd, and world on world:
 Heav'n's whole foundations to their centre nod,
 And nature trembles to the throne of God.
 All this dread ORDER break—for whom? for thee?
 Vile worm! Oh madness! pride! impiety!
- 3 What if the foot ordain'd the dust to tread,
 Or hand, to toil, aspir'd to be the head?
 What if the head, the eye, or ear repin'd
 To serve mere engines to the ruling mind?
 Just as absurd for any part to claim
 To be another, in this gen'ral frame:
 Just as absurd, to mourn the tasks or pains,
 The great directing MIND OF ALL ordains.
- 4 All are but parts of one stupendous whole,
 Whose body nature is, and God the soul:
 That, chang'd thro' all, and yet in all the same,
 Great in the earth, as in th' ethereal frame;
 Warms in the sun, refreshes in the breeze,
 Glows in the stars, and blossoms in the trees;