

PREFACE.

IN order that the preface to the following observations may not become tiresome from its length, I shall only allude to the object of my inquiries, and the inaptness which is generally manifested in the study of Nature, of thinking for ourselves, together with our readiness to follow adopted metaphysical opinions without putting them to the test of our reasoning faculties, guided by the influence of facts which are presented, under a due consideration of the beings of Nature as they really are, from the most simple to the most complicated state of organization. The object then of these observations, is to form some rational conclusion relative to the cause of the manifestations of the faculties of the mind of Man as the most perfect of the works of creation.

Now in order to do so, it is necessary to follow the natural gradation of simple nature step by step, from the most simple to the most complicated and perfect in manifestations—Man. The ease with which adopted opinions may be followed, holds forth a flattering inducement to all who are, or can be satisfied with appearances alone; but he who wishes to know things as they really are, is not satisfied with appearances only, but is guided wholly by observation and induction. Hence he leaves appearances to the speculative and superficial observers, whose