

How manifest a truth is it "that man differs more from man, than man from beast?" because by that cultivation of his capacities, which is called education, he is, in a manner, metamorphosed into almost another and superior species!

It is supposed by the author of the "Origin and Progress of Language" (a very learned, curious and philosophical work) and the supposition supported with great ingenuity and probability, that mankind have been gradually emerging from a state of barbarism; that they have from being originally wild, savage creatures, been tamed and humanized; and improved by cultivation, and the introduction of the various arts found by experience necessary to society; but that society may have existed for ages before a system of articulate language was invented. In this there is certainly no impossibility, as he says, inasmuch as persons remaining absolutely dumb are known to be capable of living together in society, of communicating in some degree the knowledge of their wants, of carrying on conjointly any sort of business, and of governing and directing.

It, however, doth not appear to me romantic to suppose, with him, that at first, in a state of nature, the substitutes for language were murmuring, inarticulate sounds; that barbarous nations could only express their different passions by different cries, similar to the instances we are acquainted with in the *war-whoop*, the cry of success, and others in practice among the American Indians; that articulation or the dividing by consonants, the continuity of the vocal sounds, was at first very simple.

The vowels which are the first of the elemental sounds, are always uttered with little or no action of the mouth, being nothing else but breath vocalized, by the vibration of the interior parts of the throat, and passing through the organs of the mouth in certain peculiar positions; thus *A* is only breath blown hard, with an open mouth; *O* is sounded in like manner, only by forming the lips into a circle; the other vowels, with little variation are upon the same easy principle. The junction of consonants to these vowels, by a further modification of the several positions and actions of the tongue, teeth, palate, and lips, assisted by the nose and throat more