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FOURTH BOOK.

SECTION I.

LESSON I.

ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE LIFE.

LINNAEUS, the great Swedish naturalist, characterizes and divides the three kingdoms of nature, the animal, the vegetable, and the mineral, in the following manner: "stones grow; vegetables grow and live; animals grow, live, and feel."

These distinguishing properties are, indeed, well *adapted* to exhibit the intended idea, in a popular way; but it may be questioned whether they be *philosophically* just. To grow, live, and feel, are only the passive properties of animals; they possess, in general, *active* powers of motion; instinct and a kind of intellectual energy, which *exalts* them many degrees above vegetables, and *infinitely* above minerals; while the *different* proportions of docility or sagacity, with which they are endowed, eminently distinguish the *different* tribes of animated nature from each other, as well as from inanimate matter.

Every animal, from the highest to the lowest rank, is enabled, by some natural means, to escape