

in that tongue. Hence a treatise on this subject is called *Botanology*. The book which gives an alphabetical account of the names, nature and uses of plants, is called an *Herbal*; and a person well skilled in this science is called a *Botanist*, *Herbalist* or *Simpler*.

THE GREAT PARTS OF THIS SCIENCE.

A Treatise of Botany should contain four great parts, viz:—
 (1.) A general theory of Vegetation, explaining from the principles of reason and experiment, the nature and manner of the life and growth of plants and vegetables. (2.) A just and orderly distribution of herbs and plants into their several general kinds, and a particular enumeration of the species and individuals contained in each. (3.) A division of plants into their natural component parts, as Roots, Stalks or Trunks, Branches, Leaves, Flowers, Fruit, &c., with observations on the variety and differences of each part, in the various kinds of plants. (4.) A declaration of the various affections of plants and vegetables, as their place of growth, time of blooming, their several qualities and uses in medicine, and other affairs of life. This latter part is the subject of an *Herbal*, and so cannot be expected here at large. I shall give the best account of all these particulars that I can come at, and shall begin with the definition of a Vegetable.

A Vegetable is a body organically formed, adhering to some other body by some part of itself; by which part it attracts and receives the matter of nutrition and increase, which is called *Vegetable Life*. Such are all Plants, Shrubs and Trees.

Vegetation is the way of growth, or increase of bulk, parts and dimensions, by means of a proper disposition of organical parts or instruments receiving nourishment or nutritious juices; and which thereby circulates through all the substance of the vegetable, and is the immediate cause or principle of *Vegetative Life*.

In a perfect theory of vegetation, therefore, we must have regard to three things: (1.) The Original or Genesis of a vegetable substance or plant. (2.) The Mechanism or organical disposition of parts necessary to vegetative life. (3.) Then