

much attention to my essay on that subject. We will now proceed to quadrupeds.

If we take a comparative view of the different animals which people the globe, we shall immediately perceive, that quadrupeds, next to man, demand the pre-eminence of rank, for their strength, utility, and sagacity, and the near similitude in their structure between us and them.

In the early ages of the world, before they were subdued to our use, it is probable that they disputed the sovereignty with man. Man, while uncivilized himself, in every wild beast found a formidable rival, but since arts have been invented, quadrupeds have either become his assistants, or have been forced to retire from his presence. Yet the independent spirit of animals, though now domesticated and tame, was not broken without reiterated efforts; and several generations must have passed away, before they became perfectly docile. Take a wild dog or a cat from their native retreats, and you will find their ferocious dispositions in some measure transmitted to their young: yet not only their dispositions, but even their very forms, may be gradually altered by human application and ingenuity.

In a state of nature, animals are subject to few variations. In shape, size, and colour, they remain nearly the same; but cultivation and care essentially change their character, and vary their colours and their figures.

Observe the horse, the dog, and the cow: how many varieties have arisen from one parent stock! The fierceness of nature has been subdued and reclaimed; and animals once domesticated, feeling the necessity they are under of relying on the protection of man; from their inability to provide for themselves, submit to the duties of their station, and