

which we are unacquainted with, a full latitude of operation, the capability of reproducing its like,—was there no other evidence of the agency of this controlling power present in the animal economy—would be sufficient evidence of the truth of Dr. Prout's declaration. The principle or cause, which impresses upon the Embryo—the character of its parent, throughout the vast chain of animated existence—must certainly be a controlling power of enormous import, and, in the animal and vegetable economy of most extensive influence. In opposition to this declaration of Dr. Prout, Mr. Carpenter maintains that there is no intelligent agency operating and controlling the forces of matter, but that it is a direct emanation from the mind of the Deity that influences all these operations, keeps them in continual motion, and directs all their actions; even in the simplest cell of a cryptogamic plant we find that it performs for itself all the functions of growth and reproduction. Still this original impress, this power of reproducing its like, is a prominent feature which has not apparently changed for countless ages, and in all probability will present the same feature as long as the present condition of things exists; that it is the original impress of the Deity upon matter is without doubt; an influence delegated to vital or physical laws, still keeping up the same round of actions and producing the same results, demonstrative of the controlling agency indicated by Dr. Prout. In our opinion the objection of Mr. Carpenter is a distinction without a difference, serving to confuse this intricate and difficult subject, rather than to throw any new light upon the matter.

As presenting the latest and most comprehensive views of the component structure of organic fabrics, we propose to pass in review the several considerations offered by Mr. Carpenter, as presented in his views of the primary tissues of plants and animals, and shall return to the subject at every suitable opportunity that presents itself, until we have placed the whole subject before our readers; convinced that in this department of Physiological knowledge the greatest strides have been recently made, and that in them must exist the key to decipher the more elaborate and compound structures of animated nature. Mr. Carpenter truly says, "It is a fact now well established by microscopic investigation, that just as the Chemist resolves the countless substances formed in nature, or producible by art, into a comparatively small number of ultimate elements, each having its distinctive properties, so can the Anatomist resolve the fabrics of plants and animals,