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FOURTH BOOK.

SECTION I.

LESSON I.

ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE LIFE.

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LINNEUS, 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