

structures entering into the formation of these channels back into their primary elements, decomposition commences. It may be local, affecting only a few cells, or it may be general, affecting the whole structure; in either case, it is failure to maintain a process of change in continuous adjustment with its surroundings—*death*.

Nature, to accomplish her purpose of resolving all organic compounds back to their simple elements with the least possible delay, after life has become extinct, sends her *scavengers*, in the form of micro-organisms, to accomplish the work. These micro-organisms are skilled workmen specialized, *species*, according to the work they have to perform. Ever present, yet confined within boundaries which they cannot pass, from the dead to the living tissues; unless, by their numbers and the poisonous products resulting from their *debris*, they may destroy the healthy tissues with which they are in constant contact, then these, in their turn, become food for them, and thus they may extend their field of labor from a small beginning until the whole organism has become invaded.

Animal flesh, fish and fowl, anything that has once possessed animal life, but which has become extinct, is teeming with myriads of micro-organisms, doing their best to resolve the putrefactive, poisonous matter back to its simple innocuous elements.

That a *Christian* nation can make this seething mass of corruption a *food* shows to what extent the human mind can be debased by custom and appetite.