

**COMPARISONS OF
STRUCTURE IN ANIMALS,
THE HAND AND THE ARM**

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Comparisons of structure in animals, the hand and the arm by Anonymous

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**COMPARISONS OF
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THE HAND AND THE ARM.

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COMPARISONS OF STRUCTURE IN ANIMALS.

CHAPTER I.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

THE intelligent reader need not be apprised that the field of Comparative Anatomy is vast and extensive. So rich is the profusion of objects which it offers for contemplation, that the most powerful minds, after years of toilsome investigation and research, leave the greater part still unexplored ; and though student succeeds student, and labourer follows labourer, the philosopher of a distant period, as he recognises the hand of God, will find occasion to say, with one of old, "Lo, these are parts of His ways : but how little a portion is heard of him !" Our sketch of some of the parts of animal structure will be

but slight : our aim is to touch upon points more especially interesting to the general reader ; while, at the same time, we shall endeavour to furnish some illustrations of the wisdom of that great, all-powerful God, who has condescended to reveal himself to fallen man, not only as the God of nature, but also as the God of providence and grace.

In the fulfilment of our plan, we shall endeavour to avoid the use of technical terms, even at the expense of precision of language ; for, unless the reader be perfectly familiar with them, such terms tend to embarrass and perplex, perhaps even to deter him from pursuing a subject replete with instruction and well calculated to expand the intellect.

By way of introduction, it may be desirable to take a brief and general survey of the animal kingdom, in order that some idea may be entertained relative to its extent, and the vast multiplicity and diversity of beings which it comprehends—from man downwards to the microscopic animalcule.

For every conceivable mode of existence are animals created, and with parts, form, and organization adapted to their several exigencies. Setting man out of the question, highly exalted