Circulation Respiration Animalization &c

From the action of the digestive organs, we behold the food finally comminuted and converted into a pulpy mass & afterwards into a milky liquid and in this state drawn up by innumerable minute objects (lacteals) that propel it to unite into one common trunk thoracic duct, and convey it to the heart as the chief organ of the system and for the benefit of the whole. But previous to its entrance into the general circulation, it undergoes a further elaboration by passing through the lungs and is again returned to the heart, which it is conveyed by the arteries ~~through~~ to every part of the body.

To the purpose of nutrition & assimilation two distinct sets of vessels are necessary: one for exhausting from the mass of the blood those particles which it is intended the formation of the fresh matter demands, and the other for carrying back the effete matter into the general current. And more that the system has the same relation to each other, as the veins & arteries of the animal frame, recommending every part of the frame to be itself a vehicle and indeed constitute the general mass of the frame itself. These are called absorbent & secretory vessels. In this view of the circulation they are to be considered as based to the ~~[illegible]~~ kidneys.

The simplest action that is evinced by the mouth of the excretory or secretory vessels consists in a mere matter of their opening from the surface of all membranes & organs, for the purpose of lubricating them, and one of the simplest actions evinced by the mouth of the absorbent vessels, consists in their capacity to receive & convey this lymphatic liquid within it has answered its purpose, so as to mix & form [illegible]

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

1837