fresh and perspectual effusion; whence these vessels are often called lymphatics as well as absorbents, in consequence of their being so frequently found loaded with this albuminous material.

These correspondent systems of vessels should maintain the nicest harmony & balance in their respective functions; since if the one operate either with a less or a larger power than the other, disease must inevitably follow; the nature of the malady being determined by the nature of the cause that produces it.

All the different parts of the body are assimilating organs, in the sense that they are capable of converting the common nutriment of the blood into their respective nature, and for their respective uses. And it has also appeared, that under particular circumstances every part is capable, moreover, of secreting a material different from that of its own nature, as, for example, the material of pus, whenever such a substance is necessary.

This view of the subject will lead us to an estimate with facility how it is possible for various organs of the system to maintain two distinct vocations at the same time: one of a matter similar to its own substance, and exclusively for its own use; and another of a matter distinct from its own substance, and in many instances obsequious to the system in general. Of the last kind are the stomach, liver, the respiratory organs & the kidneys: each of which secretes matter for its own sustainment independently, that required for the purposes, as the gastric juice of the stomach, the oxygenous principle of the respiratory, & the urinous fluid or material of secretion.

Various other organs perform the same double purpose, though of a similar texture and secrete materials of a more local use, & which are intended to be thrown away from the system as waste or noxious bodies. And to me it is the view of these closes below the kidneys

the intestinal tube, the follicles of the skin, the glands that secrete the saliva & the mucous that serve to lubricate the mouth & nostrils. And those that elaborate the tears, the wax of the inner ear, & the sal-

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

1837