

not to be estimated by a day, a year, an age, nor any given period of time, for time itself relates only to individuals, to beings whose existence is limited. It is not so with respect to species, for their existence is constant ; their permanence produces duration, and their differences give rise to number. It is in this light that we must consider species, and give to each an equal right to the indulgence and support of Nature ; for so *she* has certainly considered them, by bestowing on each the means of existing as long as herself.

Let us now consider the species as having changed places with the individual. In our preceding observations we have seen the relation which Nature holds in respect to man ; let us now then take a view in what light she would appear to a being who represented the whole human species. We perceive that in the spring the fields renew their verdure, the buds and flowers expand, the bees revive from their state of torpor, the swallows return to our climates, the nightingale chaunts her song of love, the lamb frisks, and the bull lows with desire, and all animated creatures are eager to unite and multiply their species ; and we can then have no ideas but those of reproduction.