

stances they have been discovered, we shall see that there is but little hope of ever finding those that we have only seen as fossils.

Islands of moderate extent, situated at a distance from extensive continents, have very few quadrupeds, and those very small; when they have large ones, it is because they have been brought from elsewhere. Bougainville and Cook found only dogs and hogs on the South Sea Islands; and the largest species of the West India Islands was the agouti.

In fact, large territories, such as Asia, Africa, the two Americas, and New Holland, have large quadrupeds, and generally species peculiar to each of them; so that wherever it has been found that the situation of these lands has kept them isolated from the rest of the world, a class of quadrupeds has been there found entirely different from any elsewhere existing. Thus, when the Spaniards first overran South America, they did not find one of the quadrupeds common to Europe, Asia, or Africa. The puma, the jaguar, the tapir, the cabiai, the lama, the vicuna, sloths, armadilloes, opossums, and all the species of monkeys, were to them entirely strange, and beings of which they had no idea. The same phenomenon occurred in our time, when the first survey of the coast of New Holland and the adjacent islands took place. The different kangaroos, phascolomys, dasyurus, and perameles, the flying phalangers, the ornithorynchi, and echidnæ, have been found to astonish naturalists by their strange conformations, which broke through all rules and overthrew all systems.

If then there remained any extensive continent to discover, we might hope to find new species, amongst which some might be found more or less