

resembling those of which the bowels of the earth have presented us with the relics; but it is sufficient to cast a glance over the mass of the world, and see the numerous directions in which navigators have ploughed the ocean, to judge that there cannot be any other large tract of land, unless it be at the North Pole, where the ice would not admit of any duration of existence.

Thus, we find that it is from the interior of the large divisions of the world that we can expect unknown quadrupeds.

But, on a little reflection, we shall soon see that this expectation is hardly more likely to be realized here than in the islands.

The European traveller does not easily effect his passage through vast extent of countries, desert, or only supporting a ferocious population, and this is more particularly the case in Africa; but nothing prevents animals from overrunning these countries in every direction and approaching the coasts. Although great mountainous chains may intervene between the coasts and the deserts of the interior, they would be broken in some places to allow of the passage of the rivers; and, in these burning deserts quadrupeds give the preference to the banks of the rivers. The population of these coasts ascend these rivers, and soon acquire a knowledge, either from experience, or by commerce and tradition, of the more remote population, and of all the remarkable species which live near the sources of the streams.

At no period have the civilized nations, who have frequented the coasts of a great country, failed in acquiring a knowledge of the largest animals, or those whose formation is peculiar and striking.