

to them were not made out; thus horses and buffaloes, which are found with elephants, have not yet peculiar and specific characters; and geologists who will not adopt my different epochs for fossil bones, will still be able to draw from them, for many years, an opposing argument the more convenient, as it is from my book that they will derive them.

But although it may be said that these epochs are capable of some objections with persons who but slightly consider some particular case, I am no less persuaded that those who will adopt the whole of these phenomena will not be checked by these small and partial difficulties, and will acknowledge with me, that there has been one and probably two successions in the class of quadrupeds, before that which now peoples the surface of our continents.

I here expect another objection; one has been made already.

THE EXTINCT SPECIES ARE NOT VARIETIES OF LIVING SPECIES.

Why, I am asked, should not the present race be modifications of those ancient races which we find among fossils, modifications which would have been produced by local circumstances and change of climate, and brought to this great difference by a long series of years?

This objection must appear very cogent with those who believe in the undefined possibility of the change of forms in organized bodies, and who think that with ages and habits every species may change, one into another, or result from a single one amongst them.