

determinate circumstances, and that their extent increases with the weight of these circumstances.

Thus the most superficial characteristics are the most changeable; colour depends much on light; the thickness of the hair on the heat; the size in great supply of food; but in a wild animal, even these varieties are very much limited by the habits of the animal, which does not willingly leave the places where it finds, in a quantity suited to its wants, all that is necessary for the support of its species: and which does not go far away, but as it may find all its wants as well supplied. Thus, although the wolf and the fox are found from the torrid to the icy zone, we rarely find in this vast space very little other difference than a little more or less beauty in their fur. I have compared the skulls of foxes of the north, and those of Egypt, with those of France, and have only found individual differences.

Those savage animals which are confined to more limited spaces vary still less, particularly those which are carnivorous. A thicker mane makes the only difference between the hyena of Persia, and that of Marocco.

Herbivorous wild animals feel rather more sensibly the influence of climate, because it more affects their food, which thus differs in abundance and quality at various times. Thus elephants will be greater in one forest than in another; they will have tusks larger in those places where the nourishment is more congenial with the formation of the material of ivory; it is the same with rein-deer and stags, according to their woods; but let us take the two most dissimilar elephants, and we shall not discover the least difference in the number or ar-