

For instance, let us suppose that a great irruption of the sea, covers, with a mass of sand, or other accumulation, the continent of New Holland; it would bury the carcasses of the *kangaroos*, *phasgólomys*, *dasyuras*, *perameles*, flying phalanger, *echidna*, *ornithorynchus*, and would entirely destroy the species of all these genera, since none of them now exist in any other country.

Suppose that the same revolution were to leave dry the multiplied small straits which separate New Holland from the continent of Asia, it would open a way for the elephant, rhinoceros, buffalo, horse, camel, tiger, and all other Asiatic quadrupeds, which would come and inhabit a land in which they were before unknown.

If a naturalist, after having well studied the living species, were to lay open the soil on which it lives, he would find the remains of very different animals.

What New Holland would become, were this supposition realized, Europe, Siberia, and a great portion of America, really are; and it may one day be discovered in the examination of other countries, and even of New Holland itself, that they have all experienced similar revolutions, I should say nearly all mutual exchanges of productions; for, to carry the supposition still farther, after this transport of Asiatic animals into New Holland, let us allow that a second revolution destroyed Asia, their original country; those who should discover them in New Holland, their second country, would be as much embarrassed to find out whence they came, as we can now be to discover the origin of those which are found in our own countries.

I now proceed to apply this reasoning to the human species.