

types of organization, according to the natural laws by which the conditions of their existence were determined, the races disappeared, and were probably succeeded by new forms.

The extinction of whole genera of animals and plants has no doubt depended on many causes. In the earlier ages, the changes of temperature, and the rapid mutations of land and water, were probably the principal agents of destruction; but since man became the lord of the creation, his necessities and caprice have occasioned the extirpation of whole tribes of animals, whose relics are found in the superficial strata, with those of species concerning which both history and tradition are silent.

In this country the beaver, wolf, hyena, bear, &c. are examples of species which, although extinct in Great Britain, still exist elsewhere; while the mammoth, and the Irish elk, whose remains occur in our alluvial deposits, are both extinct; the latter was unquestionably extirpated by the early inhabitants of these islands. The obliteration of certain forms of organization, is therefore clearly dependent on a law in the economy of nature which is still in active operation; and I shall proceed to notice the connecting links between the actually existing species, and those which are blotted out from the face of the earth.

3. ANIMALS EXTIRPATED BY HUMAN AGENCY.—That the extinction of many of the existing races of animals must soon take place, from the immense