

that glossy green which we admire in other regions; and as there is no periodical fall of the leaves, there is not only the absence of light and shade, but of that noble awakening from death to life, which we enjoy with every returning spring. In striking contrast, we may turn to an autumnal scene in the north of Europe—we have the birch with its white bark and pendulous and slender branches, and the pines loaded with cones, and the boulders of granite covered with the cranberries and their yellow fruit. Nor is the charm of colour wanting, although flowers are absent. Not to speak of the tints of the foliage, the mushroom tribe supply the place of flowers, the amanita resembles a brilliant orange parasol, and other plants of the same tribe afford every variety of form and colour.

But passing from the consideration of these groups of organic beings, which give character and distinction to the different divisions of the earth, we may contemplate this endless variety from another point of view, as exhibited in the different types or great divisions of the animal and vegetable kingdoms. When we survey any such marked botanical or zoological family, we find a rich series of variations, distinct from those depending on necessary conditions. These variations may be considered as ornamental, and the