

ceeded by new orders, most of which could not have lived under the prior condition of things, but are every way adapted to the altered circumstances. Our own country presents numerous examples. Its fossil flora and fauna, plants and animals, evince congeniality with tropical warmth. If restored to life now, they would, with few exceptions, speedily relapse into extinction, amid the chill blasts of this degenerate epoch. But tribes to which the caloric of past days would have been enfeebling and deadly, are at home and healthful in our frigid atmosphere.*

These facts confute the notion so long in

* The relation of animals to external conditions of temperature is obvious, and there are extremes of heat and cold which limit the existence of species. These limits vary with the species. It is, however, to be remembered that very different animals may live under nearly similar physical conditions. Thus, the crocodiles of the Nile and Ganges, although of distinct species, might, beyond doubt, change rivers, and still subsist; and the saguor of America might live in the delta of the Niger as well as on the banks of the Amazon. The capability of animals for enduring changes of temperature is often far greater than we would suspect. The tiger is often killed in the coldest regions of Siberia; and it is not twenty centuries since the lion lived in Thrace, the modern Roumelia, and on the banks of the waters of the Danube. Still it is true that, from a survey of the extensive groups of plants and animals, we may infer the nature of the climate, as above stated. S.