

habitually behold, and never find altered, becomes so stable in our apprehensions, that we begin to ascribe to it a necessary and self-explained existence. We feel as if there were an

merged in others; and such revolutions must necessarily be attended by the destruction of many species. As all such changes must be accompanied by corresponding changes in local climates, this effect may reach animals inhabiting regions remote from the site of actual change. Any shallowing of the sea between Carolina and the Bahamas, by deflecting the current of tepid water, called the gulf-stream, would render the west coast of Greenland an uninhabitable region of perpetual ice. Although such considerations will do much in accounting for the extinction of animals and plants, more especially of terrestrial ones, there is another order of facts which at present appear inexplicable. The climates of great part of Europe and Northern Asia, when inhabited by elephants, hippopotami, and the rhinoceros, were much colder than at present, and the extinction of these races appears to have been synchronous with an amelioration of temperature. But a far greater difficulty remains. These extinct animals had for their companions species which still subsist:—the remains of the musk-ox, the urus, and the red-deer are found in the same position as those of the elephant and rhinoceros; and we cannot tell how one kind of animals was extirpated, while another was permitted to survive. The same difficulty occurs in the tertiary shell-fish. Descending from the older to the newer periods, we find that the proportion of extinct species diminishes, while the per centage of existing species increases, till we arrive at deposits containing only the remains of living species.

When we examine the other fact, as to the appearance of