

existing, such a conclusion might not be invalidated; and some would rather infer that animals and vegetables were everlasting, with the earth they inhabit. This, which was the Aristotelian view, has been completely subverted by the study of the organic remains which occur in such variety and abundance in all, except the oldest stratified rocks. The careful investigation of the remains of former and long-extinct species of plants and animals, has led to the wonderful but incontrovertible fact, that repeatedly whole races and groups of beings have perished, while the earth has again been replenished by new species. To state this fact in all its evidence, we must ascend from the consideration of species to that of genera and families of animals, and illustrate the subject by a reference to the geographical distribution of plants and animals over our actual earth. It is well known that every well-defined region of the globe has its own peculiar creation of plants and animals, which exist in no other division of the earth's surface. Every one knows the very remarkable character of New Holland; by far the greater number of species of plants and animals of that vast region are found in no other country. Not only are the species peculiar to Australia, but also the genera and higher divisions, such as the leafless *Acacias*, etc., among plants, and the marsupial animals,