

uniformity amidst endless diversity of structure and adaptation. Strange and anomalous as many of the extinct genera, whether of plants or animals, appear to us when compared with existing races, they were still parts of one creation, and possessed the same essential organs,—they were vertebral or invertebral, cold-blooded or warm-blooded. The ichthyosaur, with the head of a porpoise, the teeth of the crocodile, and the swimming feet of a turtle, was as essentially a reptile as the alligator or lizard; and although its soft parts have long since been decomposed, we are still as certain that its reproduction was oviparous, that its heart had not more than three cavities—and consequently that it was cold-blooded—as if we had the living animal before us. This system of unity in variety is equally apparent when we take a view of any extensive groups of animals; such, for example, as the ruminants and the pachyderms. In the former, if we confine our attention to the species disseminated over our present earth, we find a tolerably complete series, with few abrupt or sudden transitions; from the deer on the one extreme, to the camel on the other, we have many intermediate and connecting species. Among the pachyderms of the present earth the case is very different; the genera stand boldly out and widely apart from each other. We have the elephant with his five hoofs and