

has no leaves, but the branches become flattened and expanded, so as to assume the form and fulfil the function of leaves.

Following out these views throughout the wide range of extinct and living species, we find that, with adaptation, design, and general laws, there is also choice and unbounded selection of means. The plan of creation is not one of parsimony and mere utility alone: it comprehends not the being only, but the wellbeing and the beauty of the universe. This is equally apparent, whether we consider the inhabitants of the primeval seas and lands, or the plants and animals of our present world. Although the organisation of living bodies must have certain necessary relations to external nature—that is, to temperature, moisture, and food—still this is only a part of their nature, and by no means comprehends their whole history. Thus the squirrel and parroquet of the tropical forests are both fitted, by their constitution, for a high temperature—both are climbers, and consume the same food, and perform the same duty of keeping the members of the vegetable population within due bounds; and how differently is the end accomplished in the two instances quoted? We allude to this circumstance as one upon which a great deal of the beauty and variety of the world depends, and which enables us to take far juster and more comprehensive views of crea-