

tion than are usually entertained. From this principle of accomplishing the same means by a diversity of ends, we deduce all the vast diversity of genera and species which are to be found in different regions and in strata of various ages. The intertropical regions of the three continents, for example, and the great islands of the Indian Archipelago, are, in as far as climate and inorganic nature are concerned, remarkably similar; but in living nature this uniformity vanishes—each region is ornamented by its peculiar vegetation, and animated by its characteristic races. It is only requisite to take a general view of the distribution of organised bodies to see how much of contrast and variety exists in different regions. In Southern Africa, we find a wilderness of heaths, astonishing from their numbers and variety of species. On the other hand, not a single heath is found on the American continent, while the uncouth forms and beautiful flowers of the cactus everywhere meet the eye; and again in Australia we find the epacrids are substituted for the heaths, which they so closely resemble in general appearance. This grouping of certain forms of vegetation gives an individuality to the different regions of the earth. The forests of New Holland exhibit a weary uniformity to the eye of the European. The leaves of the trees are vertical, and not horizontal, and destitute of