

which these desires are gratified. The timid deer, afraid of every enemy, by habit acquires vigorous limbs, and listening to every sound, it acquires ears; but opposite desires may co-exist, and the deer is also bold and pugnacious, and his desire to fight produces horns, instruments of defence. In addition to these causes, animals of different species may breed together, and hence we have mixed races; so that by this circumstance alone we may transmute species, just as the descendants of a negro, by repeated intermarriages with Europeans, will lose every vestige of African features.

The following objections may be offered to these statements:—Almost all changes produced in plants and animals are the results of human interference; they are forced states, maintained by incessant care, and vanishing when the species is withdrawn from domestication. The wild horses or dogs, in all quarters of the world, recur to a common standard, varieties of stature and colour disappear, and the influence of climate and food ceases to be apparent. The same remark applies to hybridism; it is produced by man, and in the animal kingdom at least appears to be scarcely known among the wild races of the forest. If, on the one hand, such modifications as we have noticed are chiefly due to the perseverance and industry of man, we must also remember