

consider that wherever any one stratum of the earth has been well explored, the number of species discovered has not fallen below that of the living species which now inhabit any particular locality of equal extent, and then bear in mind that there is a great number of geological strata, we may anticipate the day when the ascertained fossil species will far exceed the living species.\*

8. These numbers, far from discouraging, should, on the contrary, encourage those who study Natural History. Each new species is, in some respects, a radiating point which throws additional light on all around it; so that, as the picture is enlarged, it at the same time becomes more intelligible to those who are competent to seize its prominent traits.

9. To give a detailed account of each and all of these animals, and to show their relations to each other, is the task of the Naturalist. The number and extent of the volumes already published upon the various departments of Natural History show, that only a mere outline of a domain so vast could be fully sketched in an elementary work, and that none but those who make it their special study can be expected to survey its individual parts.

10. Every well-educated person, however, is expected to have a general acquaintance with the great natural phenomena constantly displayed before his eyes. There is a general knowledge of man and the subordinate animals, embracing their structure, races, habits, distribution, mutual relations, &c., which is not only calculated to conduce es-

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\* In a separate work, entitled "*Nomenclator Zoologicus*," by L. AGASSIZ, the principles of nomenclature are discussed, and a list of the names of genera and families proposed by authors is given. To this work those are referred who may desire to become more familiar with nomenclature, and to know in detail the genera and families in each class of the Animal Kingdom.