

## SECTION II

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE FAUNAS

413. We have stated that all the faunas of the globe may be divided into three groups, corresponding to as many great climatal divisions, namely, the glacial or arctic, the temperate and the tropical faunas. These three divisions appertain to both hemispheres, as we recede from the equator towards the north or south poles. It will hereafter be shown that the tropical and temperate faunas may be again divided into several zoölogical provinces, depending on longitude or on the peculiar configuration of the continents.

414. No continent is better calculated to give a correct idea of distribution into faunas, as determined by climate, than the continent of America; extending as it does across both hemispheres, and embracing all latitudes, so that all climates are represented upon it, as shown by the chart on the following page.

415. Let a traveller embark at Iceland, which is situated on the borders of the polar circle, with a view to observe, in a zoölogical aspect, the principal points along the eastern shore of America. The result of his observation will be very much as follows. Along the coast of Greenland and Iceland, and also along Baffin's Bay, he will meet with an unvaried fauna, composed throughout of the same animals, which are also for the most part identical with those of the arctic shores of Europe. It will be nearly the same along the coast of Labrador.

416. As he approaches Newfoundland, he will see the landscape, and with it the fauna, assuming a somewhat more varied aspect. To the wide and naked or turfy plains of the boreal regions succeed forests, in which he will find