

492. The fauna of the upper stage of the Tertiary formation approaches yet more nearly to that of the present epoch. Besides the Pachyderms, that were also predominant in the lower stage, we find numbers of carnivorous animals, some of them much surpassing in size the lions and tigers of our day. We meet also gigantic Edentata, and Rodents of great size.

493. The distribution of the Tertiary fossils also reveals to us the important fact, that, in this epoch, animals of the same species were circumscribed in much narrower limits than before. The earth's surface, highly diversified by mountains and valleys, was divided into numerous basins, which, like the Gulf of Mexico, or the Mediterranean of this day, contained species not found elsewhere. Such was the basin of Paris, that of London, and, on this continent, that of South Carolina.

494. In this limitation of certain types within certain bounds, we distinctly observe another approach to the present condition of things, in the fact that groups of animals which occur only in particular regions are found to have already existed in the same regions during the Tertiary epoch. Thus the Edentata are the predominant animals in the fossil fauna of Brazil as well as in its present fauna; and Marsupials were formerly as numerous in New Holland as they now are, though in general of much larger size.

495. THE MODERN EPOCH. *Reign of Man.*—The Present epoch succeeds to, but is not a continuation of, the Tertiary age. These two epochs are separated by a great geological event, traces of which we see every where around us. The climate of the northern hemisphere, which had been, during the Tertiary epoch, considerably warmer than now, so as to allow of the growth of palm-trees in the temperate zone of our time, became much colder at the end of this period, causing the polar glaciers to advance south, much beyond