

the apex should rise to the grade of man, the Orient would be the theater of its display.

Man seems signalized as the last term in the series of organic improvements. His erect attitude gives us an intimation. The first vertebrate swung horizontally in his native element. The Amphibian could slightly elevate his head. The Reptilian head could be raised to a higher angle; and the highest reptiles could rise on four feet, or even ambulate as bipeds—though withal, in an awkward way; but all reptiles dragged a cumbrous tail prone on the ground. The Bird perched in an oblique attitude, and raised the head for an outlook; but when he swam through the air, he took the attitude of a swimming fish. The Ape could clumsily stand on two feet, and wield a weapon with his hands; but the very shape of the foot, and the unmuscular legs show that Nature never designed him for a habitual biped. Man alone, finds the upright attitude quite natural and comfortable. Here has been a progressive upward inclination of the spinal axis. Vertical in man, the progress comes to a limit. This criterion is not suited to index any further improvement. We infer that no further improvement will present itself to be indexed.

The same inference is sustained by man's cosmopolite adaptations. From the beginning of life on the earth, the range of individual species has been narrowing. The Brachiopods and Trilobites of the Cambrian ranged through wider seas than those of the Carboniferous. Land animals, when they appeared, were fenced within still stricter limits; and when the mammals came upon the theater of being, each species—almost each genus—was assigned to a particular corner of one continent. Under this law of progressive restriction of faunal range, man should have been shut in a narrower field than any of his predecessors. He is not. On the contrary, all restrictions are removed. Man ranges over every continent and through every clime. No conditions are too hard; no difficulties insurmountable. Nature seems to have reached a point where a new policy is inaugurated. The shackles are