

have affected the vegetation of the country ; some herbs grow now more abundantly than they formerly did ; or they may now be able to flourish at a higher level than of old. Others, to which the change has been unfavourable, may have been greatly thinned in numbers, and even extirpated altogether. In like manner, the coming of man has worked mighty transformations in the animal world. Over and above the extirpation of the beasts of the forest, and the introduction of foreign forms into the country, he has waged incessant war against those which he considers injurious to his interest. He has thus altered the natural proportion of the different species to each other, and introduced a new element into the universal 'struggle for existence.' No species, whether of plants or of animals, can notably increase or diminish in number without, of course, thereby exerting an influence upon its neighbours. And here a boundless field of inquiry opens out to us. Man's advent has not been a mere solitary fact, nor have the alterations which he has effected been confined merely to the relations that subsist between himself and nature. He has set in motion a series of changes which have reacted on each other in countless circles, both through the organic and the inorganic world. Nor are they confined to the past ; they still go on ; and, as years roll away, they must produce new modifications and reactions, the stream of change ever widening, carrying with it man himself, from whom it took its rise, and who is yet in no small degree involved in the very revolutions which he originates.