

men, and the due selection of individuals for the purpose of breeding^m.

While animals exist in a state of nature, it does not appear that the circumstances in which they are placed give rise to much variation, even in their external and fugitive characters. A uniformity of size and colour is usually observable in the several individuals of the same species; as in the instances of the wild cat and rabbit. Nor is the character liable to be changed by intercourse among individuals of different species. Although, for instance, the hare and rabbit are so nearly allied in form and size and colour, we never meet with a hybrid or mule of those species.

In domesticated species a variation first in colour, and then in size, usually takes place, to an extent proportional to the degree of domestication. Cats, which are less subjugated to man than horses or dogs, vary little more than in colour; scarcely at all in size. And in horses,

^m Burckhardt observes, in his notes on the Bedouins, p. 111, and 139, that in barren parts of the desert of Arabia, or in seasons of scarcity, camels and sheep do not multiply so extensively as in fertile plains and seasons. A similar observation would probably hold good with respect to the ratio of increase among the Tchutski and other tribes of north-eastern Russia, and the inhabitants of New Holland or any other part of the world where the supply of food is scanty.

See, on this subject, a letter, published by sir John Sebright in 1809, on the art of improving the breeds of domestic animals.