

fluous have been excluded from the ark at the time of the general deluge, and so left to perish? This would furnish a very easy solution of the difficulty, but the text of Scripture seems too precise and express to allow of such a supposition. For the command to Noah is—“*Of every thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark.*” But yet the terms here employed must be limited to those animals that required such shelter to preserve them from destruction by the diluvial waters; so that the expression—“*of all flesh*”—necessarily admits of some exceptions.

But there are doubtless very many animals still existing upon the earth and in its waters, that have not yet been discovered. When we consider the vast tracts of terra incognita still shut out from us in the heart of Africa, that fatal country hitherto as it were hermetically sealed to our researches, and from whose bourn so few travellers return; how little we know of Central Asia, of China, and of some parts of North America; we may well believe that our catalogues of animals are still very short of their real numbers, even with respect to those of the largest dimensions. Burchell and Campbell appear to have met with more than one new species of rhinoceros in their journey from the Cape of Good Hope into the interior;* the same country may conceal others of the same gigantic or other tribes, which, when it is more fully explored, may hereafter be brought to light.

Again, with regard to the productions of the various seas and oceans that occupy so large a portion of our globe, we know comparatively few, especially of its molluscous inhabitants. What are cast up on the shores of the various countries washed by their waves, and what the net or other means may collect in their vicinity, find their way indeed into our cabinets; but what are these compared with such as inhabit the depths and caves and bed of the infinite ocean, which net

* See Appendix, Note 8.