

appears to have been derived from Europe and Asia ; and if so, there is a door open, through which Providence might also have conducted those North American animals that are found in no other country.

But besides the probable, or possible, modes by which the transit of animals to their respective settlements might have been accomplished, Mr. Lyell, in the second volume of his Principles of Geology, has suggested one which might, amongst others, have been employed for this purpose.

“Captain W. H. Smyth informs me,” says he, “that, when cruising in the Cornwallis, amidst the Philippine islands, he has more than once seen, after those dreadful hurricanes called typhoons, floating islands of (*matted*) wood, with trees growing upon them ; and that ships have sometimes been in eminent peril, in consequence of mistaking them for terra firma.” Mr. Lyell conjectures, not improbably, that by means of such an insular raft, or wandering Delos,—“if the surface of the deep be calm, and the rafts carried along by a current, or wafted by a slight breath of air fanning the foliage of the green trees, it may arrive, after a passage of several weeks, at the bay of an island, into which its plants and animals may be poured out as from an ark ; and thus a colony of several hundred new species may at once be naturalized.” Thus he accounts for the peopling of the volcanic and coral islands in the Pacific.

It must be borne in mind that nothing really happens by chance, or is the result of an accidental concourse of fortuitous events: second causes are always under the direction of the *first*, who ordereth all things according to the good pleasure of His will ; and therefore the elevation of a new island from the bosom of the deep, whether immediately produced by volcanic agency, or by an earthquake, or built by Zoophytes, still may be denominated *his* work ; so, like-