

wise, the same Almighty Guardian of the universe, whose name is Jehovah of Hosts, directs all the actions and motions of the hosts that he hath created, to the full accomplishment of every purpose that, in his wisdom, he hath formed. When we are assured that the hairs of our head are all numbered, and that not a sparrow falleth without our Heavenly Father, we are instructed to look beyond second causes for the direction and management of events that appear at first sight the most trivial, but which, in their immediate or remote consequences, may be productive of effects that are important to be attended to and provided for.*

We know that when animals of any kind exceed certain limits, though beneficial in the ordinary exercise of their instincts, they become noxious. God alone knows when they approach these limits; it is he, therefore, that employs man or other animals to destroy a certain number of them, that they may bear a due proportion to other beings on which they act; or if he wills to punish mankind, he suffers their numbers to increase so as to answer this intention. But to all his hosts, he says, "Thus far shalt thou go and no further." Therefore, when the ocean, or fires below its bed, or other causes elevate islands above its surface, it is he that conducts to them the population he intends should occupy them.

The islands of Bourbon and Mauritius both appear to be of volcanic origin: amongst their aboriginal animal inhabitants, was a most extraordinary gallinaceous bird, called the Dodo;† this bird, like the ostrich and cassowary, had only rudiments of wings, and of course was unable to fly; being unfit for food, though of the gallinaceous order, and a very ugly bird, it soon became extinct in those islands, and the only remains of it are a leg and foot at the British Museum, and a skeleton of the head in the Ashmolean Museum at

* Appendix, Note 15.

† *Didus ineptus*.