

Oxford. It has been contended that this bird, having never been discovered elsewhere, was peculiar to this island, but there are reasons for believing, that it was not the only species of its genus, for Latham has included in it two others,\* both stated to have been found in African islands. This affords a strong presumption that the head quarters of the genus are on the continent of Africa, and that these three species have been conveyed to the islands they are stated to have inhabited by some accidental cause.† By the direction of Providence, a floating island, like that seen by Captain Smyth, might be the means of conveying this and their other inhabitants to them.

I think, therefore, that there is no necessity to have recourse to a new and more recent creation, to account for the introduction of its peculiar animals into any given country.

The fact itself, that almost every country has its peculiar animals, affords a proof of design, and of the adaptation of means to an end, demonstrating the intervention and guidance of an invisible Being, of irresistible power, to whose will all things yield obedience, and whose wisdom and goodness are conspicuous in all the arrangements he has made. Wherever we see a peculiar class of animals we usually see peculiar circumstances which require their presence. Thus the Elephant and Rhinoceros, the Lion and the Tiger, are found only in warm climates, where a rapid vegetation, and infinite hosts of animals, seem to require the efforts of such gigantic and ferocious devourers to keep them in check: but on this subject I shall have occasion to enlarge hereafter.

There is another point of view, illustrative of the Divine

\* *Didus solitarius* and *nazarenus*.

† See a full account of this bird in a quarto volume by Dr. Melville and Mr. H. Strutland, called "The Dodo and its Kindred."—F. R. J.