

doned to themselves and to the circumstances in which they found themselves in their original station, without any superintending power to guide them, they would not so invariably have fixed themselves in the climates and regions for which they were evidently intended. Their migrations, under their own sole guidance, would have depended, for their direction, upon the season of the year at which the desire seized them to change their quarters: in the height of summer, the tropical animals might have taken a direction further removed from the tropics; and, in winter, those of colder climates might have journeyed towards instead of from them. Besides, taking into consideration other motives, from casual circumstances, that might have induced different individuals belonging to the same climates to pursue different routes, they might be misled by cupidity, or dislike, or fear. On no other principle can we explain the adaptation of their organization to the state and productions of the country in which we find them—I speak of local species—but that of a Supreme Power, who formed and furnished the country, organized them for it, and guided them into it.

There is another question relating to local animals which here requires some notice. Are they really distinct species? Have not the characters which separate them from their affinities been produced, in the course of years, by peculiar circumstances in which they are placed, such as climate, temperature, nature of the country, food, and the like? Every person who knows anything of the history of animals must admit, that great changes do take place in them from the long action of these causes. For instance, some varieties of the common ox are polled, having only rudiments of horns; others have very short, and others very long ones; in some they are not fixed to the skull, but attached to the skin, and moveable with it. The same thing, likewise, takes