

or four months' repose, and a considerable time after the rest of the carcass has acquired flesh, that it resumes its natural size of one fourth of the whole body." This conjecture of the Arabs may, very probably, be well founded, for it is known that animals which become torpid in the winter, are very fat and have several cauls abounding in that substance; but when they awake from their long repose in the spring, they have absorbed a large proportion of it, and are comparatively lean, and more fit for action. During their torpidity the fat is absorbed into the system by means of the lymphatic vessels and the ramifications of the veins. It is stated, however, that the Bear comes out of its winter quarters as fat as it went into them, but that in a few days it becomes very lean.* In this case it would seem as if there was little or no absorption during hybernation, and that it becomes very rapid upon the animal's emersion from its hiding place.

Reasoning from analogy, the hump on the Zebu may have some such use, and during the dry season, when the food is scorched up, may minister to the nutriment of the animal. If this be the case, this variation from the common type is evidently designed, and furnishes a proof of the care of the Creator for all his creatures, and likewise of such an adaptation of means to an end, as evince both the wisdom, power, and prescience of Him who has so arranged circumstances and agents in every climate as to fulfil his benevolent purposes.

The all-wise Governor of the universe, when he gave to the sheep its covering, appears to have had in view not solely the protection of the animal from the effects of cold, but more particularly the benefit of him whom he had enthroned at the head of his creation, by thus placing at his disposal a material so inestimable, for his use and comfort,

* Dr. Richardson, *Faun. Boreali-americae*. i. 16, 20.