

as wool. It has been observed that all the wild sheep are clothed with long hair; but the Guinea sheep,\* which is found in the tropical countries, both of Africa and India, is the most truly hairy of any, evidently a provision of the Author of nature, suited to the climate in which they are found. The fine fleeces of the cultivated breeds appear to have been engrafted, as it were, on the long hair of the wild ones, which, doubtless, have been very much improved by the attention paid by man to his flocks. The influence of climate, the quality of pasturage, a due supply of wholesome food in winter, and washing and shearing when summer approaches, have all, certainly, contributed to the improvement of this staple of our commerce. But it was God who endowed these animals with those facilities, if I may so speak, of which man availing himself, might produce by culture the valuable article, in its highest perfection, of which I am here speaking. What a difference between the hair of the Guinea sheep, and the beautiful fleece of the Merino, which even seems to be exceeded, in fineness and softness, by the straight wool of the Parnassian breed.

No animal, if indeed all belong to one original species, varies more than one that is most domesticated of any, the dog: some, as the water-dog,† being covered with curled hair almost as thick as the fleece of a sheep, while others, the Turkish-dog,‡ are absolutely naked; others again, the grey-hound,§ being very slender, with long slender muzzle and legs, remarkable for their velocity and the quickness of their sight; others lastly, the hound,|| more robust in form, less swift in motion, with a short obtuse muzzle, depending chiefly upon their scent in pursuit of their prey. Whoever studies all these supposed varieties, and the diversified func-

\* *Ovis aries africana*.—L.

‡ *Canis familiaris ægyptius*.

|| *Canis familiaris molossus*.

† *Canis familiaris aquaticus*.

§ *Canis familiaris graius*.