

tions which they exercise in our service, as our faithful and attached companions, the watchful guardians and defenders of our property, the purveyors of our table, and the ministers of our pleasures, must acknowledge the wisdom, goodness, and power of the Creator in the production of so versatile a race, applicable, in so many ways, to such a variety of purposes, many of them of the first importance. Without them some nations would have no means of conveyance from place to place;* and others would scarcely be able to supply themselves with a sufficiency of food.†

Amongst the birds there is one tribe peculiarly domesticated, which likewise is subject to numerous variations (it will be readily seen that I allude to our common poultry), but the differences that obtain in them are chiefly confined to their plumage; some are crowned with a tuft of feathers; others, as the Friesland-hen, have the feathers on their body recurved; another breed, as the rumpets, have no tail; the generality have their legs naked, but the bantams have them covered with feathers; and, to name no more, the silk-hens, instead of feathers, are clothed with a kind of silken hair.

We cannot state the object of all these differences, but probably it is connected with the climate and other circumstances of the country in which they were produced. India and its islands appears to be the metropolis of this valuable species of fowl, and the jungle fowl is supposed to be the original breed; but this is one of those animals which will live and thrive in every climate except the Polar; and when we consider the benefits we derive from them, we shall be disposed with grateful hearts to adore and glorify our Almighty Benefactor, who fitted them, as well as so many other useful animals, to become, like ourselves, denizens of the whole earth. It is a remarkable circumstance, and

* The Kamtchadales.

† Many of the North American Indians, Esquimaux, &c.