

as before ; his species is not altered. Apply this to nations : will it follow, because one is now generally gifted with a greater degree of intellect, and another remarkable for more acute sensation, that therefore they cannot be derived from a common origin ? Nations are often led by custom as well as individuals ; they, therefore, usually walk in the path that their ancestors have trod before them, and, from circumstances connected with this, it happens that some apply their faculties to higher pursuits than others. Those that chiefly cultivate the intellect improve it by that very act ; while those who are principally engaged in pursuits that require the constant and skilful use of the organs of sensation acquire a degree of expertness in that use not to be met with in the others ; but the intellect being employed only upon low objects, becomes habitually degraded, and loses all taste for things that are not visible and tangible. Though in an individual, or in a long succession of individuals, this might not produce a perceptible contraction and non-development of the organ of the intellect, or in the chamber that contains it ; yet, in the lapse of ages and generations, this effect would gradually be produced ; for if an organ is not used for a long course of years, it becomes contracted, and from long habit unapt to perform its natural functions. Some American nations, by the application of boards properly shaped, depress the skull-bone of their infants, thinking a flat head a great beauty ; whence the tribe is distinguished by the name of Pallotepallors, or Flat-heads. Others, by the same means, give them a conical form ; there is no difficulty, therefore, in conceiving that with a gradual contraction of the brain, that of the skull might take place in the foetus, which would accommodate one to the other. With regard to the memory, it is not wonderful that a being who occupies his time and intellect with few objects, should have a more distinct recollection