

may be attributed to the action of physical causes directed by the Deity: who, to use the language of a pious and excellent poet,

“Lives through all life, extends through all extent,  
Spreads undivided, operates unspent.”

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THERE is another interesting subject connected with the geography of animals, which may find its place here; a subject than which none shows more evidently or strikingly the hand of a beneficent and ever watchful Providence holding the reins, and upon certain occasions and at certain seasons directing various animals to change their quarters, and seek often in distant countries a more genial climate, in which they may give birth to their young, or find a better supply of food for their own support. I shall, therefore, now devote a few pages to the *migrations* of animals.

The most general principle that causes emigration is common to man and animals. When a country is over-peopled, and can no longer maintain its inhabitants, unless some means can be devised at home by which the pressure may be lightened, and the suffering classes enabled to procure the necessaries of life, there must inevitably be some outbreak; when the rivers can no longer be contained within their natural channel they will overflow, and spread desolation around, till they have passed away and found a place in the great receptacle of waters. Thus, in ancient times, the great northern hive sent forth its numberless swarms, and overturned and divided amongst them a considerable portion of that mighty empire which extended its iron sway over the fairest portion of the globe.\*

\* See Appendix, Note 19.