

northern countries, that the climate must formerly have been warmer than it now is. That the inclination of the earth's axis was once different from what it now is, was a very ancient opinion; but whatever might be the cause, the fact seems to have been certain, from the existence in very high latitudes of the plants and animals here alluded to, such as various species of palms, of elephants, hippopotami, turtles, and similar tropical forms. Cuvier indeed has conjectured, that the carcass of a mammoth found in Siberia belonged to a cold climate, because it was clothed with wool as well as hair. Its hair was stated to consist of three kinds. One being stiff black, long bristles, another flexible hair of a reddish-brown colour, and the third a reddish-brown wool, which grew among the roots of the long hair.* Now with respect to sheep, there is evidently a difference with regard to their coat in those that live in warm climates and those that inhabit cold ones, the coat of the former usually consisting chiefly of hairs, and the latter of wool;† but Dr. Buckland‡ and Dr. Virey§ have advanced some satisfactory arguments which prove that the Mammoth could not have existed in the countries in which its fossil remains are so abundant, if it had been exposed to a great degree of cold. It is remarked with respect to the remains of fossil elephants, which are so numerous without the tropics, in regions too cold for their existence, that none have been hitherto found in those countries which they actually inhabit at the present time.|| This throws no small degree of doubt upon that hypothesis which assigns them for their habitation the countries in which their remains are now

* Cuvier, *Theory of the Earth*, by Jameson, 275.

† See above, vol. i. p. 64.

‡ Supplement to Captain Beechey's *Voyage*, ii. 355, 356.

§ N. D. D'H. N. x. 162.

|| Ibid. 169.