

agency? Surely, the mere existence of vegetation did not require such prodigality. Seeds, for instance, need not have been enveloped in bulky fruits; nor need they have been produced by myriads: and all that foliage, all those flowers, and roots, in such amazing profusion, of what use are they; why were they so created? If we regard vegetation as a thing simply adapted to climate, and existing for its own sake alone, the question scarcely admits of a rational answer. But if we consider at the same time, the existence of animals, and view these superfluities as the means by which animal existence is principally upheld; every difficulty vanishes, and the splendid design of the whole wonderful scheme becomes at once apparent. We are thus brought to the consideration of animal existence.

## SECTION II.

### *Of the Distribution of Animals over the Earth.*

ANIMALS have been so constituted, that food is to them indispensable: they can, therefore, exist only where their food has been supplied by nature. On land, at least in the warm and temperate climates, by far the greater proportion of animals derive their subsistence, either directly or indirectly, from the vegetable kingdom. For