

dation to climate, from the agency of man, and from accidental causes; the distribution of the larger animals over the globe has, in comparatively recent times, been very much modified. Nor is there any reason to believe, that the distribution of these animals is yet stationary; but, on the contrary, that their distribution will undergo still further changes.

Among the more remarkable habits of animals, may be noticed the *migratory* propensities of certain species. The migration of land animals, is always much limited, and may be entirely prevented by natural obstacles; such as the asperities of the earth's surface; sands; deep rivers, or other large accumulations of water. But many birds and even insects, possessing powerful locomotion, and whose course is through the air, may literally be said to follow the sun in their migratory progress. It is hardly necessary to state, as examples, the birds of passage, so well known as the Swallow and the Cuckoo. These birds during the summer months visit our northern climate, and feed on insects, whose multiplication would otherwise be boundless. Having fulfilled their office here; on the declination of the sun, they again retire to the south; and are succeeded by different birds from countries still further north. Such are the Woodcock and others, which escape to our shores from the rigorous cold of a Polar winter. Nor is migra-