

had grasses been associated with the ferns, they would not have undergone a similar change. We have, in fact, at the present time, countries in which the ferns assume the numerical proportion of the grasses of other latitudes; for example, New Zealand, which also presents in its fauna a striking analogy to that of the carboniferous deposits, in the extreme scarcity of indigenous mammalia.

A late writer has the following remarks on this subject:—"Although in its Flora, New Zealand has some relationship with the two large continents between which it is situated, America and Australia, and even possesses some species identical with those of Europe, without the latter being referable to an introduction by Europeans, yet the greater number of species, and even genera, are peculiar to the country. New Zealand, with the adjacent islands, Chatham, Auckland, and Macquarrie, form a botanical centre. It is sufficiently distant from both continents to preserve its botanical peculiarities, and it offers, in that respect, the most striking instance of an acknowledged fact in all branches of natural history, viz. that the different regions of the globe are endowed with peculiar forms of animal and vegetable life. The number of species of plants at present known is 632, of which 314 are dicotyledonous, and the rest, or 318, are monocotyledonous, and cellular. The number of monocotyledonous is very small in comparison with the cellular; there