

bored through or split, with large wooden wedges and stones in them, and broken axe-heads somewhat like sacrificing axes in shape, and this at depths and under circumstances which exclude all supposition of their having been touched since the destruction of the forest. . . . Near a large root in the parish of Hatfield were found eight or nine coins of some of the Roman emperors, exceedingly defaced with time.”

ORIGIN OF THE FAUNA AND FLORA OF YORKSHIRE.

Whence came the fauna and flora to the insulated area of Britain? It will be useless to invoke a special creation within this area, because the species are not confined to it, and there will be the same difficulty in spreading them from it as in bringing them to it. It will not be enough to call in the aid of sea-currents, or aerial wanderers, to disseminate even a small portion of the animals and plants. There remains then one only mode to be further considered,—a change of physical circumstances, such that a land communication existed for a long period of time between Britain and the Continent, whereby animals might arrive by the usual processes of nature.

In such a case *migration*, the process by which animals adapt themselves to varying climate, procure suitable food, and obtain the requisite conditions for reproduction, might bring us the Elephant, Urus and Deer, with their followers, the Lion, Tiger and Wolf. The irregular distribution of seeds and ova, which takes place in many unexpected ways through air and water, might give us the aquatic and terrestrial mollusca and plants; while the steady process of *diffusion* from a central space, may be appealed to for the more easy examples of animals less dependent on climate, and less restrained from locomotion. Such a state of physical geography would be represented, if, with De la Beche, we raise the bed of the northern seas only 600 feet, a quantity much within the admitted measures of moderate geological movements.