

founded upon some of the minor peculiarities of anatomical structure, such as the number, disposition, or proportions of the teeth, claws, fins, &c., and usually includes several kinds. Thus, the lion, tiger, leopard, cat, &c., agree in the structure of their feet, claws, and teeth, and they belong to the genus *Felis*; while the dog, fox, jackal, wolf, &c., have another and a different peculiarity of the feet, claws, and teeth, and are arranged in the genus *Canis*.

The Species is founded upon less important distinctions, such as color, size, proportions, sculpture, &c. Thus we have different kinds, or species, of duck, different species of squirrel, different species of monkey, &c., varying from each other in some trivial circumstance, while those of each group agree in all their general structure. The specific name is the lowest term to which we descend, if we except certain peculiarities, generally induced by some modification of native habits, such as are seen in domestic animals. These are called *varieties*, and seldom endure beyond the causes which occasion them.

Several genera which have certain traits in common are combined to form a *family*. Thus, the alewives, herrings, shad, &c., form a family called *Clupeidæ*; the crows, blackbirds, jays, &c., form the family *Corvidæ*. Families are combined to form *orders*, and orders form *classes*, and finally, classes are combined to form the four primary divisions or *departments*, of the Animal Kingdom.

For each of these groups, whether larger or smaller, we involuntarily picture in our minds an image, made up of the traits which characterize the group. This ideal image is called a *TYPE*, a term which there will be frequent occasion to employ in our general remarks on the Animal Kingdom. This image may correspond to some one member of the group; but it is rare that any one species embodies all our ideas of the class, family, or genus to which it belongs.