

CHAPTER THIRTEENTH.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ANIMALS.

SECTION I.

GENERAL LAWS OF DISTRIBUTION.

396 No animal, excepting man, inhabits every part of the surface of the earth. Each great geographical or climatal region is occupied by some species not found elsewhere; and each animal dwells within certain limits, beyond which it does not range while left to its natural freedom, and within which it always inclines to return, when removed by accident or design. Man alone is a cosmopolite. His domain is the whole earth. For him, and with a view to him, it was created. His right to it is based upon his organization and his relation to Nature, and is maintained by his intelligence and the perfectibility of his social condition.

397. A group of animals which inhabits any particular region, embracing all the species, both aquatic and terrestrial, is called its FAUNA; in the same manner as the plants of a country are called its Flora. To be entitled to this name, it is not necessary that none of the animals composing the group should be found in any other region; it is sufficient that there should be peculiarities in the distribution of the families, genera, and species, and in the preponderance of certain types over others, sufficiently prominent to impress upon a region well-marked features. Thus, for example, in the islands of the Pacific are found terrestrial animals, alto-