

400. The influence of climate, in the colder regions, acts merely to induce a greater uniformity in the species of animals. Thus the same animals inhabit the northern polar regions of the three continents. The polar bear is the same in Europe, Asia, and America, and so are also a great many birds. In the temperate regions, on the contrary, the species differ on each of the continents, but they still preserve the same general features. The types are the same, but they are represented by quite different species. In consequence of these general resemblances, the first colonists of New England erroneously applied the names of European species to American animals. Similar differences are observed in distant regions of the same continent, within the same parallels of latitude. The animals of Oregon and of California are not the same as those of New England. The difference, in certain respects, is even greater than between the animals of New England and Europe. In like manner, the animals of temperate Asia differ more from those of Europe than they do from those of America.

401. Under the torrid zone, the Animal Kingdom, as well as the Vegetable, attains its highest development. The animals of the tropics are not only different from those of the temperate zone, but, moreover, they present the greatest variety among themselves. The most gracefully proportioned forms are found by the side of the most grotesque, decked with every combination of brilliant coloring. At the same time, the contrast between the animals of different continents is more marked; and, in many respects, the animals of the different tropical faunas differ not less from each other than from those of the temperate or frozen zones. Thus, the fauna of Brazil varies as much from that of Central Africa as from that of the United States.

402. This diversity upon different continents cannot depend simply on any influence of the climate of the tropics