

great stag, the skeleton and horns of which have been found buried in the peat-bogs of Ireland. There are also many species of animals whose numbers are daily diminishing, and whose extinction may be foreseen ; as the Canada deer, (*Wapiti*,) the Ibex of the Alps, the Lämmergeyer, the bison, the beaver, the wild turkey, &c.

448. Other causes may also contribute towards dispersing animals beyond their natural limits. Thus, the sea-weeds are carried about by marine currents, and are frequently met with far from shore, thronged with little crustaceans, which are in this manner transported to great distances from the place of their birth. The drift wood which the Gulf Stream floats from the Gulf of Mexico even to the western shores of Europe, is frequently perforated by the larvæ of insects, and may, probably, serve as depositories for the eggs of fishes, crustacea, and mollusks. It is possible, also, that aquatic birds may contribute in some measure to the diffusion of some species of fishes and mollusks, either by the eggs becoming attached to their feet, or by means of those which they evacuate undigested, after having transported them to considerable distances. Still, all these circumstances exercise but a very feeble influence upon the distribution of species in general ; and each country, none the less, preserves its peculiar physiognomy, so far as its animals are concerned.

449. There is only one way to account for the distribution of animals as we find them, namely, to suppose that they are *autochthonoi*, that is to say, that they originated like plants, on the soil where they are found. In order to explain the particular distribution of many animals, we are even led to admit that they must have been created at several points of the same zone ; an inference which we must make from the distribution of aquatic animals, especially that of Fishes. If we examine the fishes of the different