

increase in the number of the known mammals has mainly taken place. And in these cases it will generally be found that the new species, which had been previously confounded with some old ones, so nearly resembles the latter in bulk as well as aspect, as to justify in some degree the mistake. Let us take two of the greatest animals as examples,—the elephant and the rhinoceros. Buffon confounded the African with the Asiatic elephant. We now know that they represent two well-marked species, *Elephas Africanus* and *Elephas Indicus*; and that an ark which contained the ancestors of all the existing animals would require to have its *two* pair of elephants, not the one pair only which would have been deemed sufficient eighty years ago. Again, with respect to the rhinoceros, Buffon was acquainted with the single-horned animal, and had *heard* of the animal with two horns; and so, though by no means certain that the “*variety* was constant,” he yet held that “two distinct species might possibly be established.” But we now know that there are six species of rhinoceros (seven, according to the “Physical Atlas”),—*Rh. Indicus*, *Rh. Javanus*, *Rh. Sumatrensis*, *Rh. Africanus*, *Rh. simus*, and *Rh. ketloa*; and that, instead of *possibly* four, at least twelve, or more probably fourteen, animals of the genus would require, on the hypothesis of a universal deluge, to have been accommodated in the ark. Buffon even held that the bison of America might be identical with not simply the aurochs of Europe, which it closely resembles, but with even the European ox, which it does *not* resemble. But it is now known, that while the European aurochs are provided by nature with but fourteen pairs of ribs, the American bison is furnished with fifteen. Of each of the ruminants that divide the hoof there were *seven* introduced into the ark; and it may be well to mark how, even during the last few years, our acquaintance with this order of animals has been growing, and how greatly the known species, in