

CHAPTER XXIX.

WORLD-THOUGHTS.

LET us trace these world-thoughts further. We shall find the same story thrice-recorded.

Every body knows that the domestic dog outranks the ox, while he is himself outranked by the chimpanzee. Still lower than the ox in rank is that aquatic mammal, the whale, which to every judgment seems just on the separating line between mammals and fishes, while higher than the chimpanzee, both in his organization and his intelligence, is the being, Man. These several forms belong all to the class of mammals, and represent so many orders of that class. Each class of the animal kingdom is composed of different grades of creatures, which mark the different orders of the class. The criteria by which we determine relative rank amongst animals are various. Within the limits of a class, superiority of rank is denoted by aerial respiration, and inferiority by aquatic respiration. Correspondingly, merely aquatic habits, even with aerial respiration, as in whales, show that the affinities are downward. Even the endowment of wings marks a grade below those forms fitted to travel on the surface of the solid earth. Then, again, a multiplication of similar parts denotes inferiority, as is illustrated by the fact that some of the marsupial quadrupeds of Australia possess fifty-four teeth, and some dolphins one hundred and ninety, while the typical number for mammals is forty-four. Thus, also, insects have but six legs, while their inferiors, the spiders, have eight, and myriapods an indefinite number. Inferiority is equal-