

their life, so close a resemblance to each other in form, size, and colour, that it is difficult to distinguish them at a little distance: but whenever any species has been long domesticated, or subjugated to the dominion of man, we usually find a proportional variety in those points. In proof of the foregoing assertion it will be sufficient to make a comparison between wild and tame rabbits; or between the domestic and wild cat; and to refer to the differences observable in all those animals which are constantly under the care of man, as the horse, the dog, and the ox.

The alteration which is produced in such cases, and which depends partly on climate and food and general regimen, but still more on the intermixture of the breed, is in many instances of the highest utility to man. Suppose for a moment that, in the case of the horse, any one of the existing varieties, the dray-horse for instance, or the Shetland pony, were from henceforth to determine the permanent character of the species; and observe what would be the consequence. What a waste of power, and what an inconvenient increase of trouble and expense, both with respect to stable-room and food, would there be in using the dray-horse, where the Shetland pony would be sufficient; and, on the other hand, how ill would the Shetland pony supply the place of the dray-horse,