

and wonderful variety in the forms and functions of their bodily structure, internal as well as external. In all the species of animals, the entire anatomy, and the outward provision of covering, defence, and mode of obtaining food, are adapted to their indigenous locality, with a power and precision which richly display the inexhaustible resources of creative wisdom. A few species indeed are formed to enjoy a very wide range, they being among the animals readily domesticated and the most serviceable to man. Yet even they, we have much reason to think, were originally indigenous in particular places: and it is worthy of observation that some of these species, by being brought into widely different circumstances as to climate and treatment, acquire through the lapse of many generations, alterations of form so remarkable, that uninstructed persons might take them for specifically different animals: but that these differences constitute only varieties, and not species, is established by clear anatomical evidence, and by the test of continuous progeny.

Having made these by no means considerable allowances, we find abundant proofs that the habitable surface of the dry land, and even the vast extent of the waters, are divided into districts, the native plants and animals of which have characteristic peculiarities. This fact was stated in our last lecture. An example of it has been rendered familiar to reading persons, by the enlarged attention of late years to such subjects and the wonderfully increased means of communication; in the instance of the Australian countries. There has not been sufficient time for any of the species of plants or animals, which have been introduced by European settlers, to throw a shade upon the question as to what species are indigenous and what are naturalized foreigners. That region, which includes some of the islands of the South