

distribution of species in islands. Separated from Africa by the Mozambique channel, which is 300 miles wide, Madagascar forms, with two or three small islands in its immediate vicinity, a zoological province by itself, all the species except one, and nearly all the genera, being peculiar. The only exception consists of a small insectivorous quadruped (*Centetes*), found also in the Mauritius, to which place it is supposed to have been taken in ships. The most characteristic feature of this remarkable fauna consists in the number of quadrumana of the Lemur family, no less than six genera of those monkeys being exclusively met with in this island, and a seventh genus of the same, called *Galago*, which alone has any foreign representative, being found, as we might from analogy have anticipated, in the nearest main land. Had the species of quadrupeds in Madagascar agreed with those of the contiguous parts of Africa, as do those of England with the rest of Europe, the naturalist would have inferred that there had been a land communication since the period of the coming in of the existing quadrupeds, whereas we may now conclude that the Mozambique channel has constituted an insuperable barrier to the fusion of the continental fauna with that of the great island during the whole period that has elapsed since the living species were created.

5thly. Another of the great nations of terrestrial mammalia is that of *India*, containing a great variety of peculiar forms, such as the sloth-bear (*Prochilus*), the musk-deer (*Moscus*), the nyghau, the gibbon or long-armed ape, and many others. 6thly. A portion of the islands of the *Indian archipelago* might, perhaps, be considered by some geologists as an appendage of the same province. In fact, we find in the large islands of Java, Sumatra, and Borneo the same genera, for the most part, as on the continent of India, and some of the same species, *e. g.* the tapir (*Tapirus Malayanus*), the rhinoceros of Sumatra, and some others. Most of the species, however, are distinct, and each island has many, and even a few genera, peculiar to itself. Between eighty and ninety species are known to inhabit Java, and nearly the same number occur in Sumatra. Of these, more than half are common to the two islands. Borneo, which is much less explored, has yielded already upwards of sixty species, more than half of which are met with either in Java or Sumatra. Of the species inhabiting Sumatra and not found in Java, Borneo contains the greater portion. Upon the whole, if these three large islands were united and a fusion of their respective indigenous mammalia should take place, they would present a fauna related to that of continental India, and comprising about as many species as we might expect from analogy to discover in an area of equal extent. The Philippine Islands are peopled with another assemblage of species generically related to the great Indian type.

7thly. But the islands of Celebes, Amboina, Timor, and *New Guinea*, constitute a different region of mammalia more allied to the Australian type, as having an intermixture of marsupial quadrupeds, yet showing an affinity also to the Indian in such forms as the deer (*Cervus*), the weasel (*Viverra*), the pig (*Sus*), the Macaque