

its general idea. As shown by the disparities which obtain among the section which the scheme serves to separate from the others, it no more determines rank or standing than that greatly more ancient scheme of classification into "ring-streaked and spotted," which served to distinguish the flocks of the patriarch Jacob from those of Laban his father-in-law, but which did not distinguish goats from sheep, nor sheep from cattle.

The effect of introducing, after this manner, generalizations made altogether irrespective of *rank*, and avowedly without reference to it, into what are inherently and specifically *questions of rank*, admits of a simple illustration.

Let us suppose that it was not with the standing of the Silurian Placoids that we had to deal, but with that of the *mammals* of the recent period, including the *quadrumana*, and even the *bimana*, and that we had ventured to describe them, in the words of the Edinburgh Reviewer, as "the very highest types of their class." What would be thought of the reasoner who, in challenging the justice of the estimate, would argue that these creatures, men as well as monkeys, belonged simply to that division of red-blooded animals which includes, with the *bimana* and *quadrumana*, the frog, the gudgeon, and the *earthworm*? — a division, he might add, "which, when details of organization are regarded, stretches farther, both downward and upward," than that division of the white-blooded animals to which the crab, the spider, the cuttle-fish, and the dragon fly belong; "so that, looking at one extremity, any one is as much entitled to call the red-blooded animals the lowest division, as any other, looking at another extremity, is to call them the highest division, of animals." What, it might well be asked in reply, has the earthworm, with its red blood, to do in a question respecting the place