

sufficient to refute the prevailing dogma of the constancy of species. Plants, as well as animals, belonging to quite different species, may sexually mingle with one another and produce descendants which in many cases can again propagate themselves, and that indeed either (more frequently) by mingling with one of the two parental species, or (more rarely) by pure in-breeding, hybrid mixing with hybrid. The latter is well established, for example, in the hybrids of hares and rabbits (*Lepus Darwinii*, p. 151). The hybrids of a horse and a donkey, two different species of the same genus (*Equus*), are well known. These hybrids differ according as the father or the mother belongs to the one or the other species—the horse or the donkey. The mule produced by a mare and a he-donkey has qualities quite different from those of the jinny (*Hinnus*), the hybrid of a horse and a she-donkey. In both cases the hybrid produced by the crossing of two different species is a mixed form, which receives qualities from both parents; but the qualities of the hybrid are different, according to the form of the crossing. In like manner, mulattoes produced by a European and a negress show a different mixture of characters from the hybrids produced by a negro with a European female. In these phenomena of hybrid-breeding, as well as in the other laws of transmission previously mentioned, we are as yet unable to show the acting causes in detail; but no naturalist doubts the fact that the causes are in all cases purely mechanical and dependent upon the nature of organic matter itself. If we possessed more delicate means of investigation than our rude organs of sense and auxiliary instruments, we should be able to discover those causes, and to trace them to the chemical and