

plains and lower hills, and retreated into the mountains, on whose summits, struggling to maintain its place, it remains as a surviving relic of that northern flora which once covered the British Islands when they were still a part of the continent. The northern animals too were driven away. Some of them, such as the woolly elephant and the two-horned woolly rhinoceros, thinned in numbers by the change of climate and food, and hunted by primeval man, became extinct; others, such as the reindeer, glutton, lemming, and musk-sheep, have retreated to more congenial haunts in the far north, while the blue hare still remains on our mountains. The sea also furnishes proofs of the change of climate. In the deeper abysses of the western fjords, such as Loch Fyne and the Kyles of Skye, there still linger groups of the Arctic shells which peopled our seas during the Age of Ice. Like the plants, they have been driven out by the migration of more temperate forms, and instead of now ranging from the shore-line down to the profoundest depths, they are confined to the latter parts of our seas, where they seem to be slowly dying out. A return of the severe climatal conditions would doubtless allow the northern forms to recover the area from which those of more temperate climes would be driven away. But we may believe that no such return is impending; that, on the contrary, the last of the Arctic forms, both of mountain-top and sea-bottom, are doomed in the end to disappear, and that species of more temperate character will take their places. And yet, such is the unceasing progress of terrestrial change, alike in organic and inorganic nature, that these latter forms will in all likelihood be themselves displaced by migrations from other parts of the globe, as the climate, or the relative position of sea and land are changed, or as other mutations are