

contest to subdue the earth and possess it. His warfare, in deed, has often been a blind one, successful for the moment, but leading to sure and sad disaster. He has, for instance, stripped off the woodland from many a region of hill and mountain, gaining his immediate object in the possession of their stores of timber, but thereby laying bare the slopes to parching droughts or fierce rains. Countries once rich in beauty, and plenteous in all that was needful for his support, are now burned and barren, or washed bare of their soil. It is only in comparatively recent years that he has learned the truth of the aphorism—“*Homo Naturæ minister et interpres.*”

But now, when that truth is coming more and more to be recognized and acted on, man's influence is none the less marked. His object still is to subdue the earth, and he attains it, not by setting nature and her laws at defiance, but by enlisting her in his service. Within the compass of this work it is impossible to give more than merely a brief outline of so vast a subject.<sup>300</sup> The action of man is necessarily confined mainly to the land, though it has also to some extent influenced the marine fauna. It may be witnessed on climate, on the flow of water, on the character of the terrestrial surface, and on the distribution of life.

1. On Climate.—Human interference affects meteorological conditions—(1) by removing forests and laying bare

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<sup>300</sup> See Marsh's "Man and Nature," a work which, as its title denotes, specially treats of this subject, and of which a new and enlarged edition was published in 1874 under the title of "The Earth as modified by Human Action." It contains a copious bibliography. See also Rolleston, Jour. Roy. Geog. Soc. xlix. p. 320, and works cited by him, particularly De Candolle, "Geographie botanique raisonnée," 1855; Unger's "Botanische Streifzüge," in Sitzber. Vienna Acad. 1857-59; J. G. St. Hilaire, "Histoire naturelle générale des Règnes Organiques," tom. iii. 1862; Oscar Peschel, "Physische Erdkunde"; Link, "Urwelt und Alterthum," 1822; G. A. Koch, Jahrb. Geol. Reichsanst. xxv. 1875, p. 114.