

I have thus endeavored, in intervals snatched from professional study and daily avocations, to sketch in outline this great subject, in undoubting faith that fidelity to truth is the only true fidelity to Religion and to God.

When Man began to arm himself with weapons against the greater Animals within his reach, these had reached their *maximum*, and began to be speedily exterminated before his attacks, for while in the earlier Post Tertiary the greater Continent and North America were the homes of the greatest Megasthenes (or higher Vertebrates) that ever lived, almost equally great Edentates flourished in South America, and similarly vast Marsupials in Australia, while Cetaceans probably the largest, without exception, of animals that ever lived, flourished in the Polar Seas. Of all these most of the largest have perished already, while as Man improves his arms and adds to his intelligence, the greater animals which he refuses to take under his protection are rapidly disappearing before him.

The process of extinction, therefore, has been proceeding during the Recent or Human Epoch with a constantly accelerating and unparalleled rapidity. But while Man is rapidly exterminating *most* Species which are within his reach, and which he does not choose to protect, the number which he takes under his protection is continually increasing, and it so happens (though of course there is no chance in the matter) that the Species, which for economic purposes he takes under his protection, are precisely those which are the representative types of the Families or great Groups to which they belong,—the topmost buds of the greater branches of the tree of life. They are thus the natural centres of differentiation, possessing at once the greatest vital power and the greatest possibilities of variation, hence also of cultivation and of naturalization ~~at~~ every part of the Earth,—processes which I need not say are being accelerated yearly, almost daily, with the increasing facilities for locomotion which are so characteristic of the current century,—processes which have already afforded results the most invaluable to Mankind, and promise incalculable advantages in the future.

But it is in Man, himself, the representative of the entire Group of organic Types,—the topmost “upright” stem of the Tree of Life, that all the possibilities of differentiation and of culture cul-