

him at once to the physical, as well as to the moral* circumstances in which he was to dwell upon the earth? It is indeed difficult to imagine that an all-wise Providence, after having by the Deluge destroyed all mankind excepting the family of Noah, should leave these to combat, and with seemingly uncertain and inadequate means, the various external causes that tended to oppose the great object of their dispersion: and we are left to the reasonable conclusion, that each Race was adapted from the beginning to its peculiar local destination. In other words, it is assumed, that the physical characteristics which distinguish the different Races, are independent of external causes.

Such appear to have been the primitive distinctions among men: but hostile invasions, the migratory habits of some tribes, and the casual dispersion of others into remote localities, have a constant tendency to confound these peculiarities: and the proximity of two races has uniformly given rise to an intermediate variety, partaking of the characters of both, without being identical with either: these are called *mixed races*.

The grouping of mankind into Races, has occupied the ingenuity of many of the best naturalists of the past and present century: and here again we observe that diversity of opinion which is so frequent in human researches. Linnaeus referred all the human family to five races, viz: the American, the European, the Asiatic, and the African, and individuals of preternatural conformation. The Count de Buffon proposed six great divisions, viz: 1, The Hyperborean or Laplander, which embraces the Polar nations.—2, The Tartar, which includes the eastern and central nations of Asia.—3, The Southern Asiatic, which embraces the South Sea Islanders.—4, The European.—5, The Ethiopian.—And 6, The American. At a subsequent period Buffon reduced the races to five, by grouping the Laplanders with the Tartars, inasmuch as he regarded the one as a degenerate branch of the other.†

More recently Professor Blumenbach, of Gottingen, to whom this department of science is under great obligations, has adopted the arrangement of Buffon: changing the names, however, of some of the divisions, and assigning, with much greater accuracy, their geographical distribution. Thus, the Laplander and Tartar of Buffon constitute the Mongolian variety of Blumenbach: the Southern Asiatic of the one corresponds to the Malay of the other: and the European and Caucasian represent the same people in both arrangements.

The system of the celebrated Cuvier is still more elementary, for it proposes

* GENESIS, IX, 25, 26, 27.

† SONNINI'S BUFFON, XX, p. 120, &c.