

The degradation pointed out, is hence, not merely a variation in the position and size of certain organs, but an actual deterioration in rank and intelligence.

Other minor points exhibiting difference of grade, might be mentioned: but they have already been subjects of remark. We state here only one—the character of the fingers of the large hands. In the higher species, these fingers are pointed; in a grade below, in some groups, they have a spoon-like extremity. This excavate form is often more perfect in young individuals than in adults, which is one evidence that it is in fact proof of inferiority. By this mark we learn that the *Chlorodince* are of lower grade than the *Xanthince*; the *Paguri*, than the *Bernhardi*; the *Mithracidæ*, than the *Maiadæ*, etc.

Let us pass now to the *Macroura*. In the typical Macroural species, the antennæ, instead of being minute, with the inner retractile, are long exsert organs, and the outer have a large plate as an appendage at base; the eyes are without sockets; the outer maxillipeds are pediform, and do not closely cover the other mouth organs; the abdomen is often longer than the rest of the body, and has its six regular pairs of appendages. All these points show a still further relaxing of the centralization or cephalization of the species. There is an elongation of the parts anterior to the mouth, and also of those posterior, and this elongation of the two extremities is approximately proportional to the relative dimensions of the corresponding parts in the Brachyura. If we were to draw out an ovoid with the relative length and breadth of a Macroural cephalothorax, and place its focus so as to correspond with the position of the posterior margin of the epistome, in a manner like that proposed for the *Maia* among Brachyura, the ovoid would be very narrow, and the focus or centre proportionally farther from the front than in the Brachyura.

In following down the degradation of the Brachyura to the Anomoura, we have found the posterior legs becoming abbreviated, and the whole structure in its aspect imperfect. But, in the typical Macroura, there is nothing of this seeming imperfection. The legs are all fully formed; the animals are exceedingly quick in their motion, instead of being sluggish; and every organ is apparently in its most perfect state for the uses of the system to which it is tributary. We should, therefore, understand, that the process of degradation, alluded to above, is not one actually passed through in the system of creation;