

mies and human skeletons of the present time. Some difference has been found between the mummies of ibis, and the bird so called by naturalists of the present day; but I have removed all difficulties in an essay on this bird subjoined to this Discourse, in which I have shown that it is at the present time precisely as it was in the time of the Pharaohs. I am aware that I only refer to animals of two or three thousand years, but these are the earliest periods to which we are enabled to revert.

There is nothing then in known facts, which can support in the least the opinion that the new genera which I have discovered or established amongst fossils, as well as those detected by other naturalists, the *palæotheria*, the *anoplotheria*, the *megalonyces*, the *mastodontes*, the *pterodactyli*, the *ichthyosauri*, &c., could have been the sources of any animals now existing, which would only differ by the influence of time or climate; and although it should be true (which I am far from believing) that elephants, rhinoceroses, elks, and fossil bears, differ no more from those of the present time, than the race of dogs differ from each other,—we cannot thence determine the identity of the species, because the race of dogs has been subjected to the influence of domestication, to which these other animals have not nor could not have been compelled or induced to submit.

Besides, when I assert that the rocky beds contain the bones of various genera, and the shifting or alluvial strata those of many species which no longer exist, I do not mean to allege that a new creation was necessary to produce the species now existing; I only maintain that they did not exist in the places where we now see them, and they must have been deposited there by some other means.