

ing, however, the entire extinction of all the animals of a particular race; a multitude were entombed, as is proved by their remains, but the species often survived; in the mean time, new races were created and petrified in the forming rocks: again perhaps, the diminished race peopled the waters anew, and their relics were solidified in a new deposition, and so on in succession.

Whether animals and vegetables were deposited in the ocean, or in seas, in lakes, rivers or estuaries, it is easy to imagine, that if all the causes necessary to produce the events, were in successive operation, they might follow each other in the order supposed; and that this was the fact, cannot be reasonably doubted, any more than that an edifice, having granite for its foundation, and sandstone for its basement, and marble for its superstructure, and wood for its roof, and lead, zinc or iron for its covering was actually constructed of these materials, by the architect and connected in that order by his intelligent design.

The great truths of geology are few, simple and intelligible; needing nothing but the application of a sound judgment, enlightened by science, to the accurate observation of facts, which can often be distinctly observed, and the order of their succession ascertained, whether the proximate causes and the immediate circumstances can be discovered or not.

It is a supposition, altogether inadmissible, and unworthy of a serious answer, that the animal and vegetable races, entombed in such profusion, and buried often under entire mountain ranges, or firmly cemented into their very bosom, were created as we find them. On the contrary, there can be no doubt whatever, that they were once living beings, performing the part belonging to their respective races, and that at their death, or soon after, they were consolidated, in the then concreting and forming rocky strata, or that they were, in various instances, overwhelmed by igneous or diluvial catastrophes.

Animal Remains in Secondary and other Rocks.

The older secondary rocks often abound in shells of molluscous animals, principally of extinct genera, and there is a progression through the more recent strata, exhibiting a greater and greater approximation towards the more complicated structure of the most perfect animals; while the newer rocks of this class, and of the strata that lie upon them, including the tertiary, contain reptiles, fish, and even birds, and terrestrial quadrupeds.