

fertile tracts, and become the sites of towns and cities—we cannot doubt that in the materials, extracted for their edifices, the then existing races of mankind will discover indelible records of the physical history of our times, long after all traces of those stupendous works, upon which we vainly attempt to confer immortality, shall have disappeared. But we must now proceed, and pass from the ephemeral productions of man, to the enduring monuments of nature—from the coins of brass and silver, to the imperishable medals on which the past events of the globe are inscribed—from the mouldering ruins of temples and palaces, to the examination of the mighty relics, which the ancient revolutions of the earth have entombed.

2. EXTINCTION OF ANIMALS.—Before entering upon the consideration of the geological phenomena, which belong to the period immediately antecedent to the present, it will be necessary to notice one of the most remarkable facts which geological investigations have established,—namely, the entire obliteration of certain genera of animals and plants. The fluctuating state of the earth's surface, with which our previous inquiries have made us familiar, will have prepared us for the disappearance of some species of animals;—and here another law of the Creator is manifest. Certain races of living beings, suitable to peculiar conditions of the earth, appear to have been created; and when those states became no longer favourable for the continuance of such