

contemporaries, bears, hyenas, tigers, and other carnivora of species now extinct.

*Fourthly*—that there was therefore a period immediately preceding the existence of man, when the earth teemed with large herbivorous animals, which roamed through the primeval forests unmolested, save by beasts of prey. Numerous species and entire genera have been swept away from the face of the earth,—some by sudden revolutions, others by a gradual extinction,—while many have been exterminated by man.

*Lastly*—that these various strata, whether formed in the beds of lakes or rivers, in estuaries, or in the depths of the ocean, have been elevated above the level of the sea, and now constitute fertile countries, supporting the busy population of the human race.

I have thus endeavoured to interpret one page of the ancient physical history of our planet, and to explain the records of one epoch in geological chronology. We have entered upon the confines of the past, and already we find ourselves surrounded by an innumerable population of unknown types of being,—not as dim and shadowy phantoms of the imagination,—but in all the reality of form and structure, and bearing the impress of the mighty changes of which they constitute the imperishable memorials. We have again witnessed the effects of the continual mutations of the land and water,—