

the knowledge thus acquired to bear on the natural records of our planet, and examine the rocks and mountains around us, we find that in periods so remote as to exceed our powers of calculation, similar effects were produced by beings of the same type of organization as those whose labours have been the subject of our contemplation. We are thus enabled to read the history of the past, and to trace the succession of events, each of such duration as to defy all attempts to determine with any approach to probability the period required for its development.

In fine, these investigations have shown us the marvellous structure of creatures invisible to the naked eye, their modes of life and action, and the important physical changes effected by such apparently inadequate agents. They have instructed us that above, beneath, and around us, there are beings so minute as to elude our unassisted vision, yet possessing sensation and voluntary motion, and each furnished with its system of nerves, muscles, and vessels, and preying upon creatures still more minute, and of which millions might be contained in a drop of water; nay, even that these last are supported by living atoms still less, and so on—and on—till the mind is lost in astonishment, and can pursue the subject no farther! Thus are we taught,—

“ That those living things
To whom the fragile blade of grass,