

type of organization, it necessarily became extinct.* Thus we have seen different modifications of animal and vegetable life prevailing at different epochs of the earth's physical history, yet all presenting the same principles of structure, the same unity of purpose; all bearing the impress of the same Almighty hand. The creation of man, and the establishment of the existing order of things—which we are taught both by revelation and by natural records took place but a few thousand years ago,—are events beyond the speculations of philosophy.

It follows, from what has been advanced, that both animate and inanimate nature, linked together by indissoluble ties of mutual adaptation, have been governed by the same mechanical, chemical, and vital laws, from the earliest geological periods to the present time; and that the absence of the fossil remains of whole orders of animals in the remotest periods, although, perhaps, in some measure attributable to the feeble development of those types of being, may have been also dependent on the obliteration of their remains in the igneous rocks by high temperature: at the same time we must not forget, that we are examining ancient ocean beds, and may not yet have explored those parts of their vast abysses in which the spoils of the land are concealed. I need not add, that the assumption of successive creations of new forms of being,

* See page 115.