

and the pre-existing crystalline rocks are becoming relatively more and more ancient.

What was before said of the succession of ages required to raise deep-sea formations extensively to the surface (see p. 47) is equally applicable to rocks of deep subterranean origin. Hence it follows that the high relative antiquity of the visible crystalline rocks affords no better a presumption in favour of a period when nothing but granite and gneiss were formed, than the pelagic character of the visible Silurian strata and the absence of contemporaneous littoral deposits, imply the universality of the ancient ocean.