

processes through which it has never passed. It is not easy, however, to look on pebbles rounded and smoothed, as if they had been rolled in water, and believe this to be their original condition. And far more difficult is it to look on organic remains, and believe that scattered branches and bones never existed save in this fossil state. Let the following instance suffice for illustration:— A fossil echinus, or sea urchin, is found in a block of limestone. This shell has the same marks of having been inhabited by a living creature, as any shell of analogous form cast upon our shores. Why should we admit the evidence of former vitality to be decisive in the one case, and wholly reject this testimony in the other? On examining the fossil echinus, we see attached to it the lower valve of a shell-fish, called the crania. Is this second appearance of former life also delusory? and has the play of semblances been thus complicated, as if to insure misapprehension? Nor does the concatenation of illusions, if they are to be so regarded, end here. The upper valve of the crania is sought for, and it is found at a little distance in the calcareous mass. It is seen that valve answers to valve, when they are