

favour with atheists, that events have been going on just as we see them, through a past eternity; and that animals have produced animals, and plants have produced plants, each after its kind, in all prior ages. Metaphysicians urged many powerful objections to this assumption, and exerted their energies in proving that an eternal succession of generations is a tenet involving contradiction and absurdity. But we have no longer need of these abstract arguments. By the aid of geology we can now bring the controversy to the test of facts; and in the strata of the earth, we have tables of stone, on which are written, in decisive and indelible characters, an utter disproof of the atheistical hypothesis. The supposed sameness of the world vanishes before scrutiny, and without and within it is inscribed with *change*. We stand in the woods of South America, and while we gaze on their vegetation, and mark the structure and habits of their birds and beasts, and debate with ourselves the question, whether what is be only a repetition of what has been, and the history of life be a sheer exemplification of a perpetual motion, the curtain drops, the