

plesiosaurus, a creature of about thirty feet long, and also a voracious lizard, only less dreadful than the last mentioned, is scouring the shallower water, and following the movements of its meditated victim with the curlings and twistings of a long serpentine neck. And these waters are rich in encrinites, animals of so peculiar and complicated a structure, that in some species the number of separate calcareous pieces of which their singular skeleton is made up, has been calculated to amount to not less than one hundred and fifty thousand. And ammonites and belemnites here abound, and countless fishes of many kinds, all differing more or less from our living aquatic population. Leave this region, and after cycles have elapsed, visit it again, and once more it defies recognition, and we seem to have entered a different planet.*

* To have a proper conception of the vastness of such revolutions, we must not restrict ourselves to the consideration of their completeness, but also extend our views to the number of created beings which they comprise. Not only must every class of the animal kingdom be comprehended, but we have to remember that parallel changes have affected successive creations of the vegetable kingdom also. But, further, it is only fragments of past creations which have come down to us. The soft fleshy animals, destitute of