

numbered generations? 'Since our fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were,' and we are beguiled into the notion that so great constancy is tantamount to necessity.

But geology dissipates this illusion. It teaches us that though the face of the earth may seem to us unvarying, it is neither unchangeable nor unchanged. That which is necessarily is immutably. But the world has been the subject of vast mutations, and unless we ascribe creative energy to the elements, and so constitute them divinities, and in denying the existence of one God, fabricate to ourselves a whole system of Polytheism, we must acknowledge that these changes have had a producing and presiding

well as general laws, that is, the steady purposes of wisdom, are part of the plan on which the universe is governed. If we are thus assured, that in thousands of instances, during the vast period which has elapsed since the first creation of living beings on this earth, interpositions of divine power, out of the ordinary course of nature, have taken place, surely every *a priori* objection is removed to the probability of interpositions of the same power for moral ends, and for revealing to man what it was infinitely more important he should know, than merely biological results, his own real nature, his relation to the Creator of all things, and the means of securing the divine favour.