

pride of antiquity. If the world be understood to have existed for only 6,000 years, the annals of a family may seem a considerable proportion of the entire period ; and the noble heir, looking on the ruins of his ancestral castle, may plume himself on a family consequence filling so large a space in the earth's history. But admit the conclusions of modern investigation, and the whole time of man is utterly lost in its measureless eras. Our vaunted race are all the entrants of yesterday, compared with many of the irrational tribes which we regard with contempt. And the oldest palace has no chronicles, and seems as though it had been created by one breath, to be demolished by the next, when we contrast its revered duration with that of the stones of which it is composed, and the subjacent strata by which it is supported. A poor ground for elatedness are these fractional measurements of the past, the whole sum of which has only to be estimated by the age of material formations or fossil reptiles, in order to assume infinitesimal insignificance. The dignity of long duration does belong to man. We must seek it, however, not in the past, but in the future, in