

such as the kangaroo and wombat. In the same manner, the sloths and armadilloes are confined to the warmer parts of America. Similar remarks apply to Africa, and many of the greater islands of the Indian Archipelago.

If we pass from the distribution of animals and plants according to space in the different regions of the present earth, to the distribution of organic beings, according to time, as preserved in the successive strata of past ages, we find an analogous condition. As many regions of the earth, such as Australia, Madagascar, and South America, may be considered as little creations by themselves, each forming, as it were, separate nations of the organised world, in like manner, each successive geological formation has its own characteristic groups of organic fossils. Certain groups, as trilobites, orthoceras, etc., including many genera and hundreds of species, are found only in the older fossiliferous rocks, and every species belonging to them ceased to exist soon after the close of the coal formation. In the newer secondary strata, we find new kinds of shell-fish (molluscs), such as ammonites and belemnites, which did not exist along with the above-mentioned groups, and which also became in turn extinct at the commencement of the tertiary period. This second division of geology, therefore, is merely a portion of botany and