

'Vestiges of Creation,' he commenced his career as an aquatic animal before he was fitted for encountering the perils of dry land. It will be seen from this brief outline, when we have stated the opinions of La Marck and De Maillet, how little originality can be claimed by modern speculators.

An inheritor of the doctrines of Anaximander, and the precursor of La Marck, was De Maillet, a French writer, who died in 1738. His book was published in Holland, and has for title, *Telliamed*, (the anagram of his name,) or *Discourses between an Indian Philosopher and a French Missionary, concerning the diminution of the sea, the formation of the earth, and the origin of man.* His motive for writing the book was very extraordinary, and reminds us of a similar circumstance in the life of Lord Herbert of Cherbury. When he was labouring under a severe illness, a voice revealed to him that he was not to die, but was destined to communicate very important matters to the world, and this was the origin of the *Telliamed*. According to De Maillet, the sea, which once covered the loftiest mountains, has been gradually subsiding. As even marine animals can only subsist in the vicinity of land, they did not appear until some portions of the earth had emerged, and hence we find no organic remains in the primary strata. All