

La Marck, vision existed first, and this produced an eye to see with.\*

It is, however, with the geological bearing of the transmutation theory that the public has of late been chiefly interested, and a few observations will be requisite to place the subject in a proper light. Here we have to remark that if organic remains were found classified in the strata from the oldest beds up to the newest, precisely as the most learned and skilful transmutationist could desire, this alone would never prove the truth of his hypothesis. If in the oldest fossiliferous rocks we found only the simplest of

\* This absurdity of Lucretius has been exposed by our poet Prior, with his accustomed humour and good sense.

Note here Lucretius dares to teach  
 (As all our youth may learn from Creech)  
 That eyes were made and could not view,  
 Nor hands embrace, nor feet pursue;  
 But heedless Nature did produce  
 The members first and then the use.  
 What each must act was yet unknown,  
 Till all was moved by chance alone.  
 A man first builds a country seat,  
 Then finds the walls not fit to eat.  
 Another plants, and wondering sees  
 Nor books nor medals on his trees.  
 Yet poet and philosopher  
 Was he, who durst such whims aver.  
 Blest for his sake be human reason,  
 Which came at last, though late in season.