http://www.geology.19thcenturyscience.org/books/1851-King/README.htm

organic bodies, and if in each succeeding formation they increased in complication of structure, it would only prove that a different order of succession prevailed from that which actually occurs. It would never of itself prove the transmutation of species. It is, however, a very proper investigation to ascertain whether there are any proofs that organised beings are of more complicated structures in the newer than in the older strata. In such an inquiry the history of the remains of terrestrial and aquatic animals should be considered separately. We can never acquire so complete an insight into the past creations of terrestrial plants and animals as we can of marine species. It is comparatively seldom that remains of terrestrial animals become embedded in marine deposits, and most of the older fossiliferous strata were accumulated in deep water, and remote from land. At the present day vast calcareous deposits are forming in the coral archipelagos of the Pacific, but how rarely will remains of mammiferous animals be found embedded in these modern formations? It will be admitted that of all the divisions of the animal kingdom, the mollusca or shell-fish tribe affords the completest series of species, and in uninterrupted succession, from the oldest secondary formations down to the actual inhabitants of our present seas. If we now inquire