

We can discern many a specific aim in nature. There is no mistaking, for example, the intention of the Creator in the position of the teeth of animals; which have obviously been fixed where they are, instead of being protruded by a blind physical energy into useless excrescences on other parts of the body—with the express view of preparing the food for those ulterior processes which it undergoes, in the sustentation of an organic being. But though we see a specific meaning in this and a thousand other adaptations, there may yet be nothing which can lead us to comprehend the great and general meaning of the whole—what may be called the grand moving purpose of a creation, which so teems with innumerable births, and which plies its successive stages through the unvaried rounds of growth and decay and dissolution and revival. We distinctly enough see the use of those expedients by which one generation of living creatures is carried forwards from infancy to death, and leaves another generation behind it to perform the same cycle of functions and enjoyments during the course of its ephemeral being. We might discern the most unequivocal signatures of mind in that system of expedients by which one such rotation is accomplished; and yet to the eyes of nature there may be mystery; most hopeless unfathomable mystery as to the originating principle which prompted the establishment of these rotations, or as to the ultimate design in which they are to terminate. We may clearly see a thousand special contrivances for as many special accommodations—and yet there be altogether un-