

How far similar facts are likely to occur in other classes, remains to be ascertained. Our knowledge of the geographical distribution of the fossil remains is yet too fragmentary to furnish any further data upon this point. It is, however, worthy of remark, that though the types of the oldest geological periods had a much wider distribution than most recent families exhibit now, some families of fishes largely represented in the Devonian system of the Old World have not yet been noticed among the fossils of that period in America, as, for instance, the Cephalaspids, the Dipteri, and the Acanthodi. Again, of the many gigantic Reptiles of the Triassic and Oolitic periods, none are known to occur elsewhere except in Europe, and it can hardly be simply owing to the less extensive distribution of these formations in other parts of the world, since other fossils of the same formations are known from other continents. It is more likely that some of them, at least, are peculiar to limited areas of the surface of the globe, as, even in Europe, their distribution is not extensive.

Without, however, entering upon debatable ground, it remains evident, that before the establishment of the present state of things, peculiar types of animals, which were formerly circumscribed within definite limits, have continued to occupy the same or similar grounds in the present period, even though no genetic connection can be assumed between them, their representatives in these different formations not even belonging to the same genera. Such facts are in the most direct contradiction with any assumption that physical agents could have any thing to do with their origin; for though their occurrence within similar geographical areas might at first seem to favor such a view, it must be borne in mind that these so localized beings are associated with other types which have a much wider range, and, what is still more significant, they belong to different geological periods, between which great physical changes have undoubtedly taken place. Thus the facts indicate precisely the reverse of what the theory assumes; they prove a continued similarity of organized beings during successive geological periods, notwithstanding the extensive changes, in the prevailing physical conditions, which the country they inhabited may have undergone, at different periods. In whatever direction this theory of the origin of animals and plants, under the influence of physical agents, is approached, it can nowhere stand a critical examination. Only the deliberate intervention of an Intellect, acting consecutively, according to one plan, can account for phenomena of this kind.