

been found in the rocks; and with the exception of a few near the top of the series, chiefly in clay and marl, they are different, often widely, from those now living on the globe; and hence the conclusion seems irresistible, that the fossil species must have lived and died before the present races had a being. Moreover, on comparing together the remains in the different groups of rocks, they are found to be so entirely unlike as to prove that they could not have been contemporaries; and hence the conclusion is, that several successive groups of animals and plants have been created, and after occupying the earth for a long period, have been destroyed to make room for another group, better fitted to the altered condition of the surface; and that at least five or six changes of this sort took place before the creation of man and his contemporaries. Nor do geologists suppose that this view conflicts with revelation. For although Moses fixes the date of the creation of the present races of organic beings on the earth, which appeared about 6000 years ago, he does not fix the time of the creation of the globe; which he says took place in the beginning,—a term perfectly indefinite as to time,—and therefore between that event and the appearance of men upon it, immense periods might have rolled away, during which the fossil races might have lived and died. And that those periods must have been immensely long, no one conversant with the details of geology can doubt, although the proof cannot be here given. What enlarged and refreshing views does this theory exhibit to us of the plans and benevolence of the Deity!

Another interesting conclusion on this subject is, that when these fossil animals and plants lived, the climate of these northern regions must have been tropical, or even ultra-tropical. They are often much larger than their representatives