

the human ; — the human dynasty is one, and the dynasties of the inferior animals are three ; and yet who can doubt that they all equally compose parts of a well-ordered and perfect whole, as the four faces formed but one cherubim ; that they have been moving onward to a definite goal, in the unity of one grand harmonious design, — now “ lifted up high ” over the comprehension of earth, — now let down to its humble level ; and that the Creator of all has been ever seated over them on the throne of his providence, — a “ likeness in the appearance of a man,” — embodying the perfection of his nature in his workings, and determining the end from the beginning ?

There is geologic evidence, as has been shown, that in the course of creation the higher orders succeeded the lower. We have no good reason to believe that the mollusc and crustacean preceded the fish, seeing that discovery, in its slow course, has already traced the vertebrata in the ichthyic form, down to deposits which only a few years ago were regarded as representatives of the first beginnings of organized existence on our planet, and that it has at the same time failed to add a lower system to that in which their remains occur. But the fish seems most certainly to have preceded the reptile and the bird ; the reptile and the bird to have preceded the mammiferous quadruped ; and the mammiferous quadruped to have preceded man, — rational, accountable man, whom God created in his own image, — the much-loved Benjamin of the family, — last-born of all creatures. It is of itself an extraordinary fact, without reference to other considerations, that the order adopted by Cuvier, in his animal kingdom, as that in which the four great classes of vertebrate animals, when marshalled according to their rank and standing, naturally range should be also that in which they occur in order of