

single age, was destined marvellously to unlock the past history of our planet, and to acquaint us with God's doings upon it, as the Creator of all, for myriads of ages ere he had first breathed the spirit of life into human nostrils, or man had become a living soul? It is one of the great marvels of our day, that through the key furnished by geologic science we can now peruse the history of past creations more clearly, and arrive at a more thorough and certain knowledge of at least the structural peculiarities of their organisms, than we can read the early histories of the old dynasties of our own species, that flourished and decayed on the banks of the Euphrates or of the Nile, or ascertain the true character of the half-forgotten tyrants with whom they terminated, or from whom they began.

It seems scarce possible that, in at least the leading facts of geologic history, we shall witness any very considerable change. There is no truth more thoroughly ascertained than that the great Tertiary, Secondary, and Palæozoic divisions represent in the history of the globe, periods as definitely distinct and separate from each other as the modern from the ancient history of Europe, or the events which took place previous to the Christian era from those that date in the subsequent centuries which we reckon from it. All over the globe, too, in the great Palæozoic division, the Carboniferous system is found to overlie the system of the Old Red Sandstone, and that, in turn, the widely developed Silurian system. It is not less certain, that in the Secondary division, the Triassic deposits are overlaid by the Oolitic ones, and both by the Cretaceous; nor yet, that in the Tertiary division, the beds of the Pliocene, with their large percentages of existing shells, as exemplified in the Red and Coraline Craggs, belong to a greatly later period than that old Eocene age represented by the extinct shells and strange mammals of the Paris basin and the London clay. There is no human history more definitely ranged into centu-