

the completeness of which is marked by the very difficulty of finding, amid so much new and redundant life, a single identical specific variety, than the well-known existence of the *Terebratula* in the earliest, as well as in the existing seas, can efface the great ground-plan of successive geological eras.¹ Nor does it explain the matter to say that geographical changes took place, bringing with them the denizens of different climates, and adapted for different modes of life. The same Almighty Power which *now* provides habitats and conditions suitable for the wants of his creatures, would doubtless have done so during all the past. Geographical changes are at all times indissolubly connected with changes in the conditions of being; and they serve, in so far, to explain the *rule* in the stated order of geological events, when a due proportion of extinct and of novel forms are found co-existent. But how can they explain the exception? A singular effect must have a singular cause. And when we find that there were changes relating to the world's inhabitants altogether singular and abnormal in their revolutionary character, we must infer that the medial causes of which the Creator made use were of a singular and abnormal character also. On this head the best-informed ought to speak with extreme diffidence. We can but imagine that there may have been a long, immeasurable period during which a subsidence, so to speak, took place in the creative energy, and during which all specific forms, one after another, died out,—the lull of a dying creation,—and then a renewal of the impulsive force from that Divine Spirit which brooded over the face of the earliest chaotic

¹ See *Terebratula*, in Appendix. The extinct *Terebratula* is now called *Rhynchonella*.