

lights of the day and night, would have arrested most powerfully, during these periods, a human eye, we shall find the harmony of the two records complete. In your visit to the museum, I would yet further ask you to mark the place of the human skeleton in the great gallery. It stands—at least it stood only a few years ago—in the same apartment with the huge mammifers. And it is surely worthy of remark, that while in both the sacred and geologic records a strongly-defined line separates between the period of plants and the succeeding period of reptiles, and again between the period of reptiles and the succeeding period of mammals, no line in either record separates between this period of mammals and the human period. Man came into being as the last-born of creation, just ere the close of that sixth day—the third and terminal period of organic creation—to which the great mammals belong.

Let me yet further remark, that in each of these three great periods we find, with respect to the classes of existences, vegetable or animal, by which they were most prominently characterized, certain well-marked culminating points together, if I may so express myself,—twilight periods of morning dawn and evening decline. The plants of the earlier and terminal systems of the Palæozoic division are few and small: it was only during the protracted *eons* of the carboniferous period that they received their amazing development, unequalled in any previous or succeeding time.*

* It will be seen that there is no attempt made in this lecture to represent the great Palæozoic division as characterized *throughout its entire extent* by a luxuriant flora. It is, on the contrary, expressly stated here, that the “plants of its earlier and terminal formations (*i. e.* those of the Silurian, Old Red, and Permian systems) were *few and small*,” and that “it was *only during the protracted eons of the Carboniferous period that they received their amazing development, unequalled in any previous or succeeding time.*” Being thus express in my limitation, I think I have just cause of complaint against any one who represents me as unfairly labouring, in this very composition, to make it be believed that the *whole* Pa-