

It was chiefly in its middle and latter, or Miocene, Pliocene, and Pleistocene ages, that the myriads of its huger giants,—its dinotheria, mastodons, and mammoths,—cumbered the soil. I, of course, restrict my remarks to the three periods of organic life, and have not inquired whether aught analogous to these mornings and evenings of increase and diminution need be sought after in any of the others.

Such are a few of the geological facts which lead me to believe that the *days* of the Mosaic account were great periods, not natural days ; and be it remembered, that between the scheme of lengthened periods and the scheme of a merely local chaos which existed no one knows how, and of a merely local creation which had its scene no one knows where, geological science leaves us no choice whatever. It has been urged, however, that this scheme of periods is irreconcilable with that Divine “reason” for the institution of the Sabbath which He who appointed the day of old has, in his goodness, vouchsafed to man. I have failed to see any force in the objection. God the Creator, who wrought during six periods, rested during the seventh period ; and as we have no evidence whatever that He recommenced his work of creation,—as, on the contrary, man seems to be the last formed of creatures,—God may be resting still. The presumption is strong that his Sabbath is an extended period, not a natural day, and that the work of Redemption is his Sabbath-day’s work. And so I cannot see that it in the least interferes with the integrity of the reason rendered, to read it as follows :—Work during six periods, and rest on the seventh ; millions of domestic hearths, from the unprecedently luxuriant flora of the old carboniferous ages. Truly, very wonderful are the coal-fields of Northern America ! If geologists inferred, as they well might, that the extinct flora which had originated the European coal vastly outrivalled in luxuriance that of the existing time, what shall be said of that flora of the same age which originated the coal deposits of Nova Scotia and the United States,—deposits *twenty times as great* as all those of all Europe put together !