

public. Their identity of fundamental plan impresses us with awe and reverence, and breathes the thoughts of a world-embracing scope of intelligence. The first converts the animal creation into a vast menagerie for the curious to wonder at; the latter shows it to be a lesson of wisdom traced by the finger of the Omniscient himself.

Let us see what is the nature of this identity of plan which runs through all existence and all time. It is a wonderful fact in Nature. From the epoch of the St. John's molluscs and the Potsdam trilobites, through all the dreary ages of the earth's preparation for man, but four fundamental types of animal structure have ever existed. All the varied forms of extinct monsters have been constructed upon one or the other of these four fundamental plans. Throughout the wide range of existing beings—inhabiting the deep sea, populating the air, swarming over the land, and the forest, and the jungle—countless equally in the number of individuals and in the number of distinguishable species—we discern but the same four foundation plans of structure which we find exemplified in the creations of the ancient world. As the seven fundamental intervals of the gamut have in their endless combinations afforded us all the varieties of melody that have ever greeted the ears of the world, so these four fundamental plans of animalic structure have furnished the endless variations and combinations which daily greet our senses with never-ceasing novelty and delight. As Agassiz has aptly and beautifully illustrated the idea, one of these fundamental plans is like the fundamental harmony upon which an endless set of variations may be played. Vary it to what extent you will, the characteristics of the theme continually recur. What are the zoological characters of these four fundamental forms may be learned from any elementary work on the science. It is the magnificent generalization—for which