

limits in its specific range, then suddenly expanded to the widest. Man occupies the whole earth; he is not only the finishing stroke, but he excludes a successor.

Consider, lastly, man's erect attitude. When the fish, the earliest representative of the type which embraces man, was introduced into the waters of the Devonian seas, the vertebral axis was hung in a horizontal position, and the animal was not endowed with even the power to raise the head by bending the neck. Many of the Carboniferous fishes acquired this power, but they remained suspended in the element of lowest vital relations. The Triassic and Jurassic Enaliosaurs, while they continued to inhabit the water, breathed the air, and held the head habitually a little elevated. The Crocodilians to these endowments added the power to *crawl* upon the ground. The Deinosaur of the Cretaceous Age *walked* upon the land with the body elevated above the ground, but the head remaining nearly horizontal. The birds assumed an oblique position of the spinal axis; and most of the Tertiary mammals, which followed them, could carry their attitudes from the horizontal to the semi-erect. The higher monkeys lived normally in a sub-erect position, but still supporting themselves by the four extremities. Man first and alone assumed a perpendicular attitude, and turned his countenance toward heaven, and talked with the Being who formed him.

“Prona cum spectent animalia cætera terram,
Os homini sublime dedit; cœlumque tueri
Jussit, et erectos ad sidera tollere vultus.”

It is evident no farther progress can be made in this direction. The elevation of the spinal axis has reached a mathematical limit; the consummation of organic exaltation is attained.

These various considerations concur in justifying the as-