

majority of naturalists all over the globe, even the most strenuous upholder of the doctrine must admit that it is attended with palæontological difficulties which no skill or research has yet been able to remove. The problem of derivation remains insoluble, nor perhaps may we hope for any solution beyond one within the most indefinite limits of correctness.³⁷ But to the palæontologist, it is a matter of the utmost importance to feel assured that, though he may never be able to trace the missing links in the chain of being, the chain has been unbroken and persistent from the beginning of geological time.

It was remarked above (p. 1096) that, while the general march of life has been broadly alike all over the world, progress has been more rapid in some regions, and likewise in some grades of organic being, than in others. The evolution of terrestrial plants and animals appears to have been much less uniform than that of marine life, at least than that of the marine mollusca. It has been suggested that the climatic changes, which have had so dominant an influence in evolution, would affect land-plants before they influenced marine animals. Certainly a number of instances is known where an older type of marine fauna is associated with a younger type of terrestrial flora. Besides those already cited (p. 1098), reference may be made to the flora of Funfkirchen in Hungary, which, though Triassic in type, occurs in strata which have been classed with the Palæozoic Zechstein; and to the Upper Cretaceous flora of Aix la Chapelle, which, with its numerous dicotyledons, has a much more modern aspect than the contemporaneous fauna. In the Western Territories of North America, much

³⁷ A. Agassiz, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* 1880, p. 372.