

an error in the grouping, there must have been a destruction of the whole ; the balance necessary to their existence having been destroyed. We know very well that so minute a thing as a fly will produce millions, which, if not checked, will ere long darken the air and render whole regions desolate : so that if the breeze does not carry them in due time into the desert or into the ocean, the destruction will be most fearful.

As in the present day every creature has its natural enemy ; or is checked in production, sometimes by a limited supply of food, sometimes by disease, or by the influence of seasons ; and as in the whole a balance is preserved, we may reasonably apply the same principle in explanation of the condition of things as they existed in the earlier stages of the world's progress ; certainly, this view is borne out, by what we have as yet discovered in the grouping of animals, in the different stratifications or deposits of the earth.

If the Naturalist or Geologist, exploring the rocks of secondary formation, should find animals of the class Mollusca inclosed within them, it agrees with his preconceived notions, that only animals of their simple structure were in existence at the time of the subsidence of that matter of which the rock consists. But if the spine of a fish, or a jawbone, or a tooth, be