

is not different, and not older than that of a child—it is ever decaying, ever renewing whilst the office of digestion and assimilation goes on at all. The difference of activity in this change of the material of the body, compared with that of the child, may be as a week to a day; but here is not the cause of the gray hair, faded cheek, and feeble step. This is the stamp which the Creator has intended to be deciphered and interpreted.

Who, contemplating the many beautiful fabrics built up within an animal body, and seeing the proofs that they are not permanent, but, on the contrary, ever changing and ever forming anew—moreover, learning that these textures are formed by an energy, or life, which continues uniform in its operation, whilst all the materials that it works upon are changing—can hesitate to believe that in the changes of the inorganic matter around us there is a presiding Power. The difficulty of comprehension here must be attributed to the partial view which we have of these changes, from their extending into periods so far beyond our measure of time: but we cannot, at least, doubt that such a power may be in operation, and we must acknowledge that a balance is preserved, and that order and harmony prevail.