

volcanic and coral islands of the modern Pacific. The seed thus stranded upon new-formed land, produces a plant which has peculiar provision for its support on a surface destitute of soil, by long and large aerial roots protruded above the ground around the lower part of its trunk. (See Pl. 63. Fig. 1.) These roots on reaching the ground are calculated to prop up the plant as buttresses surrounding the basis of the stem, so that it can maintain its erect position, and flourish in barren sand on newly elevated reefs, where little soil has yet accumulated.

We have as yet discovered no remains of the leaves, or trunk of *Pandaneæ* in a fossil state, but the presence of our unique fruit in the Inferior Oolite formation near Charmouth, carries us back to a point of time, when we know from other evidence that England was in a state of new-born land, emerging from the seas of a tepid climate; and shews that combinations of vegetable structure such as exist in the modern *Pandaneæ*, adapted in a peculiar manner to the office of vegetable colonization, prevailed also at the time when the Oolite rocks were in process of formation.

This fruit also adds a new link to the chain of evidence, which makes known to us the Flora of the Secondary periods of geology, and therein discloses fresh proofs of Order, and Harmony, and of Adaptation of peculiar means to peculiar