

behold it was very good. That is,—every individual essence, whether inanimate or animate, was fitted in every respect to answer the end of its creation, and perform its allotted part in contributing to the general welfare. The entire machine was now in action, every separate wheel was revolving, and the will of Him who contrived and fabricated it had full and uninterrupted accomplishment. The instincts of the whole circle of animals urged them, by an irresistible impulse, to fulfil their several functions; I mean those that were necessary to the then state of things; for if the instinct of the predaceous ones was not restrained, they would soon have annihilated the herbivorous ones, even if, as Lightfoot supposes, they were at first created by sevens.* They must, therefore, originally have eaten grass or straw like the ox, and neither injured nor destroyed their fellow-beasts of a more harmless character;† this, indeed, appears clearly from the terms of the original grant, “*To every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat.*” And to this vegetable diet, before the close of the present scene, we are assured they shall again return so as to render the last age of the world as happy as the original state of man in Paradise.‡ This

* See Appendix, Note 4.

† That carnivorous animals, whether quadrupeds, birds, reptiles, or fishes, whilst they had the same anatomical structure as at present, could subsist upon vegetable diet, is opposed to all common sense, nor can we imagine that the reverend author, profoundly versed as he was in entomological lore, supposed that the innumerable races of flesh-devouring and blood-sucking insects could by possibility have sipped nectar like the butterfly, or lived upon honey as the bee; still less imaginable is it that throughout the vast realms of ocean the carnivorous polyps, or the millions of flesh-eating animalcules which crowd the waves from the top of the billow to the lowest depth that ever plummet sounded, could be fed with vegetable food.—T. R. J.

‡ Isa. lxxv. 25.