

effects its ulterior purposes. Where the operations of this simple organic agent terminate, those of another and more effective organic agent may be supposed to begin; which, by carrying the general process of organization a step further, adapts the organized material for the operations of a third and yet higher agent. Thus, each new agent may be supposed to possess more or less control over all the agents below itself, and to have the power of appropriating their services; till at length, at the top of the scale, we reach the perfection of organized existence. The excellent Paley sanctions this view of organic operations, and continues in the following words: "We do not advance this as a doctrine either of philosophy or of religion; but we say that the subject may safely be represented under this view; because the Deity, acting himself by general laws, will have the same consequences upon our reasoning, as if he had prescribed these laws to another."

This view of the successive creation of organic agents, which harmonizes not only with the phenomena of Geology, but with the differences which are observable among plants and animals, and with the developement of the more perfect species; is directly opposed to the notion of spontaneous developement maintained by some distinguished French philosophers; as well as to the opinion that life is the *result* of organization.