as in the larger forms? Who moulded it so artfully, and where are the moulds?"

As fossil organic remains, particularly shells and zoophytes, are found, many hundred and even thousand feet below the present surface of the earth, the first enquiry that naturally suggests itself is, how did they come there? It is impossible that the animals when living, or their exuviæ when dead, could pass through such vast depths of solid rock. A few of them might fall into vertical fissures, and remain there,* but they could never in this way enter into strata composed almost entirely of organic remains. Beside, the strata now deep under the dry ground are filled chiefly with the remains of marine animals; nor do we generally find these animal remains confusedly aggregated; different genera or species occupy particular strata, or are associated with certain genera or species of the same class, and never with others. It is therefore evident that they were not brought into their present situations by vast inundations, and buried under the earthy matter which a subsequent inundation cast over them. Neither could zoophytes, fish, or large reptiles, or the inhabitants of bivalve or univalve shells, have lived and flourished in the midst of solid stone. We are therefore led to the conclusion, that each stratum which contains these organic remains was once the uppermost covering of the globe, and that the animals, for the most part, lived and died near where their bones or shells are now found, and were covered by successive depositions of strata, on which following races of living beings flourished, and in like manner left their remains.

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* Instances of reptiles found living in the midst of solid stone sometimes occur. At the colliery on Rothwell Haigh near Leeds, a living lizard or newt was found in a bed of coal at the depth of 180 yards from the surface. I saw it in the year 1819 soon after its discovery; it was preserved in spirits, and was about five inches in length. I could not perceive that it differed from the living species. The animal had probably crept into the mine along one of the levels that drain off the water, or down the sides of the shaft. The specimen is now in the possession of the Rev. A. Sharp, Vicar of Wakefield. In all instances where toads have been found in solid stone, it is reasonable to believe that they entered through fissures that have been subsequently closed. That these animals will live without food for a great number of years, is proved by the following circumstance.

The late Sir Thomas Blacket, of Britton Hall in Yorkshire, had one cellar which was opened only once a year, as it contained some particularly choice wine which was never brought to table but on the annual celebration of his birthday, which was on the 21st of December, or St. Thomas's day. The butler, when taking out the wine, observed a small toad crawling along the stone floor. He placed the toad under a wine bottle, and thought no more of it till he went into the cellar the following year, when, on removing the bottle, he was much surprised to see the toad immediately leap. This circumstance he mentioned to Sir Thomas, who descended with his visiters into the cellar to look at the toad, after which the bottle was replaced, and the poor animal was kept a close prisoner till the succeeding year, when he was again uncovered, and found alive as before. The same annual experiment was continued for more than twenty-five years, when the wine was exhausted, the cellar cleared, and the toad, who was still living, was thrown out of doors. Having heard of this circumstance, from a person who had lived in the family part of the time, I questioned the old butler respecting it, and he fully confirmed the truth of the story.