nect the particular formations with those proximate to them, below or above.

XXIV. Strata containing shelly, crustaceous, or coralline remains, generally present appearances which prove to a demonstration that the animals lived and died on the muddy or sandy bottoms of the waters. Those appearances consist in the posture of individual specimens, in the juxtaposition of numbers, as they lie in what may be called tribes or family groups, spread in beautiful order over considerable areas; and in the preservation of their slender, delicate, and fragile parts.

There are other cases, in which the organic remains, be they plants, shells, or bones, exhibit proofs of having been washed away from their native seats, by streams of fresh water, or by tides and currents of the sea; and thus transported into new situations, in which depressions of the bottom, or some obstacle, or the cessation of the force of the water, allowed them to rest: and there the separated parts have become imbedded in the muddy bottom. Those lake or ocean bottoms have been subsequently elevated and dried. Again they have sunk and been submerged, so as to form new ocean-beds; over which renewed alternations of deposition and elevation and depression have taken place. This vast succession of changes presents much and various evidence of having required indescribable periods of time for their being effected: and it should never be forgotten that the same processes are still in operation, and have been so without intermission since the Almighty gave its present form to our habitable earth. There can be no doubt that, from the earliest date of man's brief history, the Nile, the Ganges, and the more mighty rivers of America, have been pouring their waters into the seas at their respective mouths. The quantity of earthy matter (with infinite multitudes of dead animals and portions of them, and the vegetable