

and cannot live upon any other. The carnivorous nature, in a thousand instances, is the immediate cause of inestimable benefits to man. Of this fact a familiar example is constantly presented before our eyes, in the speedy removal of the putrescent carcasses of animals, by the industry of millions of the minor tribes; creatures which many of us can scarcely look at without disgust; yet they are saving us from being poisoned by a fetid and infectious atmosphere; and after a further change, striking emblem of our future resurrection, they come forth beautiful and admired insects, to enjoy the brilliance of a summer's day, to sip the flowers, to provide a posterity, and then to die.

Geology unfolds to us similar scenes upon the most magnificent scale, and filling the recesses of an unfathomable antiquity. Few of the formations above the micaceous slate are destitute of the remains of animals, and in a less degree easily accounted for, of vegetables: but the larger part of those formations is filled with such remains, constituting in some cases nearly the entire substance of rocks, which are hundreds and thousands of feet in thickness and many miles in extent. Some of the Egyptian pyramids are built of Nummulitic Limestone, itself entirely composed of chambered shells, of very small size and of exquisite construction. Other rocks there are, whose very substance consists of microscopic shells of extraordinary beauty, once the habitations of living beings. Among these are our English chalk, the Bergmehl of Sweden, and the polishing stone, first obtained from Tripoli but since found in many other places. Of this last, the exquisite shells, almost entirely siliceous in their composition, which appear to constitute the whole rocky masses, are so minute, that a cube of one-tenth of an inch is calculated to contain five hundred millions of individuals. In the series of the Oolite and Lias rocks,