

what reason there might be for supposing it; and I was led to the conclusion that there was none. For, (setting aside the discoveries of geologists,) which is the most difficult to believe, that the inferior animals had only a limited existence, or that they were created immortal? Immortal! From the iguanodon or mammoth, to the fluttering butterfly or invisible animacule? A notion which involves a belief of the eternal duration of the earth; unless we are to suppose a series of transmigrations from world to world, as each dissolved. —The belief that death was in the world previous to the fall of Adam, I am aware, *seems at first*, to a Christian mind, to destroy the idea of death as a penal consequence of sin. But this difficulty soon vanishes: for, when man saw that he was placed above the inferior animals, not merely in the possession of intellect, but in being honoured with immortality while they were subject to death, he would not only understand *what was meant* by the threatened consequences of sin, but surely would feel the curse as denouncing a deep degradation, to be sunk to the level of that creation over which he was made lord. ‘The wages of sin’ were ‘death;’ a curse indeed, since it made him like the beasts that perish in this world, at the same time that it could not deliver the immortal spirit from the eternal wrath of its offended Maker.”—J. A. W. in *Christian Obs.* July, 1839; p. 405.

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[B.]

*Referring to Prop. XVII. page 60 and to page 61.*

ON THE NUMBER OF SPECIES IN THE EARLIER FOSSILIFEROUS ROCKS.

THE XVIIth proposition of the second lecture expresses the doctrine, which till lately was received among geologists, that the organic remains found in the earliest rocks possessing any such remains at all, are “the fewest” in proportionate numbers. But the recent herculean toils of Mr. Murchison have opened new fields of view upon this interesting subject. The proposition should be modified, and understood in accordance with this important observation of that distinguished geologist; “Another remarkable fact illustrating this point of inquiry is, that, although the older fossiliferous strata often contain *vast quantities* of organic remains, the *number of species* is much smaller than in more recent deposits.” *Silur. Syst.* p. 583.