

formation of the crust of the earth. In the course of these changes, whole groups of animals perished; others were created, to perish in their turn; and these operations were many times repeated, *not only before the present races of animals were formed, but even before the relative numbers in the leading groups approximated to the proportions which appear in the actual sea.*" (Phillips's Geol. in Lardner's Cyclop. vol I. p. 84.)

Other distinct arguments might be adduced in support of our position, the immense antiquity of the earth; but they will present themselves frequently and powerfully to the attentive student, in his patient explorings for geological truth. This note is too long already. Yet I thankfully avail myself of support to its design from the eloquent address of the Rev. William Vernon Harcourt, as President of the British Association, at the meeting of this year at Birmingham.

"No one, I think, can doubt that those who condemned the Copernican system were justified in conceiving that the Scriptures speak of the earth as fixed, and the sun as the moving body. Every one will allow also that this language is ill adapted to the scientific truths of Astronomy. We see the folly of any attempt, on this point, to interpret the laws of nature by the expressions of Scripture; and, *what is the ground of our judgment?* We are not all competent to judge between the theory of Copernicus and those which preceded it; but we determine against the seeming evidence of our senses, and against the letter of Scripture; because we know that competent persons have examined and decided the physical question. Now, gentlemen, in Geology we are arrived at the self-same point: that is to say, a vast body of the best informed naturalists have examined, by all the various lights of science, and by undeniable methods of investigation, the STRUCTURE OF THE EARTH: and, however they may differ on less certain points, they will agree in this: that *the earth exhibits a succession of stratification, and a series of imbedded fossils, which cannot be supposed to have been so stratified and so imbedded in six days, in a year, or in two thousand years, without supposing also such numerous, such confused and promiscuous violations of the laws and analogies of the universe, as would confound, not the science of Geology alone, but all the principles of Natural Theology.* Here then is another point of discordance; and in this case [also] the discordance lies between the language of Scripture and the truths of science.—

—"Who then would expect to find in Genesis the chronology or sequence of creation? Who can think that he upholds the authority of Scripture by literal constructions of such a history?—As Astronomy shows the unity of the Creator through the immensity of space,