

structure and form can be pointed out, which did not contribute to the convenience and happiness of the species, in the circumstances in which they were placed. It is our ignorance and narrow views alone that give any of them the aspect of monsters. Listen to the opinion of Sir Charles Bell, one of the ablest of modern anatomists. "The animals of the antediluvian world," says he, "were not monsters, there is no *lusus*, or extravagance. Hideous as they appear to us, and like the phantoms of a dream, they were adapted to the condition of the earth when they existed." "Judging by these indications of the habits of the animals we acquire a knowledge of the condition of the earth during their period of existence; that it was suited at one time to the scaly tribe of the lacertæ; with languid motion; at another, to animals of higher organization, with more varied and lively habits; and, finally, we learn that, at any period previous to man's creation, the surface of the earth would have been unsuitable to him."—*Bridgewater Treatise*, pp. 35 and 31.

A similar view is given of this subject by England's geological poet, (Rev. Mr. Wilks,) in whose playful verses we find more of true science and just inference than in many a ponderous tome of grave prose. In one of his poems he says,

"Seamy coal,  
Limestone, or oolite, and other sections,  
Give us strange tidings of our old connections;  
Our arborescent ferns, of climate torrid,  
With unknown shapes of names and natures horrid;  
Strange ichthyosau us, or iguanodon,  
With many more I cannot verse upon,  
Lost species and lost genera; some whose bias  
Is chalk, marl, sandstone, gravel, or blue lias;  
Birds, beasts, fish, insects, reptiles; fresh, marine,  
Perfect as yesterday among us seen,  
In rock or cave; 'tis passing strange to me  
How such incongruous mixture e'er could be.  
And yet no medley was it: each its station  
Once occupied in wise and meet location.  
God is a God of order, though to scan  
His works may pose the feeble powers of man."

The facts and reasonings which have now been presented will sustain the following important inferences:

*In the first place, we learn that the notions which have so widely prevailed, in ancient and modern times, respecting a chaos, are without foundation.*