

strength of an ordinary arm, are fully adequate to the transmission of an arrow from one point of space to another point a hundred yards removed; but he would be a philosopher worth looking at, who would assert that they were equally adequate for the transmission of the same arrow from points removed, not by a hundred yards, but by a hundred miles. And such, but still more glaring, has been the error of Lamarck. He has argued on this principle of improvement and adaptation — which, carry it as far as we rationally may, still leaves the vegetable a vegetable, and the dog a dog — that, in the vast course of ages, inferior have risen into superior natures, and lower into higher races; that molluscs and zoöphytes have passed into fish and reptiles, and fish and reptiles into birds and quadrupeds; that unformed, gelatinous bodies, with an organization scarcely traceable, have been metamorphosed into oaks and cedars; and that monkeys and apes have been transformed into human creatures, capable of understanding and admiring the theories of Lamarck. Assuredly there is no lack of faith among infidels; their “ vaulting ” credulity o’erleaps revelation, and “ falls on the other side.” One of the first geological works I ever read was a philosophical romance, entitled *Telliamed*, by a M. Maillet, an ingenious Frenchman of the days of Louis XV. This Maillet was by much too great a philosopher to credit the scriptural account of Noah’s flood; and yet he could believe, like Lamarck, that the whole family of birds had existed at one time as fishes, which, on being thrown ashore by the waves, had got feathers by accident; and that men themselves are but the descendants of a tribe of sea-monsters, who, tiring of their proper element, crawled up the beach one sunny morning, and, taking a fancy to the land, forgot to return.\*

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\* Few men could describe better than Maillet. His extravagances