

*peopled it, we find the same marks of wise and benevolent adaptation, as in existing races, and a perfect unity of design extending through every period of the world's history.*

*Proof 1.* The anatomical structure of animals and plants was very different at different epochs; but in all cases the change was fitted to adapt the species more perfectly to its peculiar condition. 2. To communicate the greatest aggregate amount of happiness, is a leading object in the arrangements of the present system of nature; and it is clear from geology, that this was the leading object in all previous systems. 3. The existence of carnivorous races among existing tribes of animals tends to increase the aggregate of enjoyment, first, by the happiness which those races themselves enjoy; secondly, by the great reduction of the suffering which disease and gradual decay would produce, were they not prevented by sudden death; and thirdly, by preventing any of the races from such an excessive multiplication as would exhaust their supply of food, and thus produce great suffering. Now, we find that carnivorous races always existed on the globe, showing a perfect unity of design in this respect. Thus, when the chambered shells, so abundant in the secondary rocks, and which were carnivorous, became extinct at the commencement of the tertiary epoch, numerous univalve molluscs were created, which were carnivorous; although till that time these races had been herbivorous.

*Inf.* From these statements we infer the absolute perfection, and especially the immutable wisdom of the Divine character. A minute examination of the works of creation as they now exist, discloses the infinite perfection of its Author, when they were brought into existence; and geology proves Him to have been unchangeably the same, through the vast periods of past duration, which that science shows to have elapsed since the original formation of the matter of our earth.

*3. Geology furnishes many peculiar proofs of the Divine benevolence, so peculiar that they have sometimes been quoted in proof of penal inflictions.*

Most of these proofs are derived from agencies whose immediate effects are destructive and desolating. Thus soils, which are little else than comminuted rocks, can not be prepared and spread over the valleys without long and powerful erosions by ice and water,