

made their period, though only a moment in the ages of animal life, the only period of intelligence, morality, religion. If, then, to suppose that He has done this is contrary to our conceptions of His greatness and majesty, it is plain that our conceptions are erroneous : they have taken a wrong direction. God has not judged as to what is worthy of Him as we have judged. He has found it worthy of Him to bestow upon man his special care, though he occupies so small a portion of time ; and why not, then, although he occupies so small a portion of space ?

“ Or is the objection this,—that if we suppose the earth only to be occupied by inhabitants, all the other globes of the universe are wasted,—turned to no purpose ? Is waste of this kind considered as unsuited to the character of the Creator ? But here again we have the like waste in the occupation of the earth. All its previous ages, its seas, and its continents, have been wasted upon mere brute life,—often, so far as we can see, for myriads of years upon the lowest, the least conscious form of life,—upon shell-fishes, crabs, sponges. Why, then, should not the seas and continents of other planets be occupied at present with a life no higher than this, or with no life at all ?”—*September 20, 1854.*

THE SPACES AND THE PERIODS.

THAT vast development of natural science which forms a leading characteristic of the present age gives an importance to questions such as that which it involves, which they did not possess at any former period ; and must, we doubt not, materially affect in the future the entire front of that ever fresh controversy which has been maintained since the earliest ages of the Church around the Christian evidences. Let us address ourselves to the present portion of our subject,—the great extent of the geologic periods,—through the medium of a simple illustration.

Let us suppose that shortly after the arrival of the Mayflower at the shores of New England, and just as the Pilgrim Fathers are preparing to begin their labours among the deep