

and decayed. Whole beds of the Mountain Limestone are composed almost exclusively of marine shells and the stems of lily encrinites. In the Old Red Sandstone there are three different formations abounding in fishes; and yet, so far as is yet known, there is not a single species of fish common to any two of them. And who shall tell us that the life-term of a *creation* is a brief period? In the Upper Silurian system we have examined a deposit more than fifty feet thick, every fragment of which had once been united to animal life, crustaceous, molluscan, or radiated. And how wonderfully, too, the farther geologists explore, and the more carefully they examine, are their formations found to expand! Phillips estimated the thickness of the Coal Measures at ten thousand feet. Sir Charles Lyell, in one of his recent visits to America, found that the Coal Measures of Nova Scotia had a thickness of more than *fourteen* thousand six hundred feet. Phillips estimated all the deposits beneath the Old Red Sandstone at twenty thousand feet. The geologists of the Government survey find that the Silurians alone amount to about *thirty* thousand feet; and under these, in Scotland at least, lie the clay-slates, the mica-schists, and the enormous deposits of the gneisses. On the Continent, the remains of whole creations have been found intercalated between what had been deemed contiguous systems. An entire system—the Permian—has been detected between the Coal Measures and the Trias; and that shell-deposit that extends between the Gironde and the Pyrenees, once regarded as of the same age with the Coraline Crag, has yielded seven hundred species of shells,—nearly twice the number of all the species found on the coasts of Britain,—that belong neither to the Crag nor to the older Eocene. It is yet another creation that has appeared, for which fitting space must be found in the record. The more thoroughly the field-geologist examines, the larger become his demands on the eternity of the past for periods which it