

the Coralline Crag, but in no older formation, and with it the great pecten (*Pecten maximus*), the horse mussel (*Modiola vulgaris*), and the common whelk (*Buccinum undatum*). Other equally well-known shells make their advent at a still later period; the common mussel (*Mytilus edulis*), the common periwinkle (*Littorina littorea*), and, in Britain at least, the dog-whelk (*Purpura lapillus*), first appear in the overlying Red Crag, and are not known in the older Coralline formation. By a certain very extended period, represented by the Coralline Crag, the edible oyster seems to be older than the edible mussel, and the common whelk than the common periwinkle; and I call your special attention to the fact, as representative of a numerous *class* of geological facts that bear on certain questions of a semi-theological character, occasionally mooted in the religious periodicals of the day. There are few theologians worthy of the name who now hold that the deductions of the geologists regarding the earth's antiquity are at variance with the statements of Scripture respecting its first creation, and subsequent preparation for man. But some of them do seem to hold that the scheme of reconciliation, found sufficient when this fact of the earth's antiquity was almost the only one with which we had to grapple, should be deemed sufficient still, when science, in its onward progress, has called on us to deal with this new fact of the very unequal antiquity of the plants and animals still contemporary with man, and with the further fact, that not a few of them must have been living upon the earth thousands of years ere he himself was ushered upon it,—facts of course wholly incompatible with any scheme of interpretation that would fix the date of their first appearance only a few *natural* days in advance of that of his own. We have no good reason to hold that the human species existed upon earth during the times of the boulder-clay: such a belief would conflict, as shown by the antiquity of the ancient and existing coast lines, with our