

received chronologies of the race. But long previous to these times, the Norwegian spruce pine and the Scotch fir were natives of the pre-glacial forests of our country; at even an earlier period the common periwinkle and edible mussel lived in the seas of the Red Crag deposits; and at a still earlier time, the great pecten, the whelk, and the oyster, in those of the Coralline Crag. We can now no more hold, as geologists, that the plants and animals of the existing creation came into being only a few hours or a few days previous to man, than that the world itself came into being only six thousand years ago; and we do think we have reason to complain of theologians who, ignorant of the facts with which we have to deal, and in no way solicitous to acquaint themselves with them, set themselves coolly to criticise our well-meant endeavours to reconcile the Scripture narrative of creation with the more recent findings of our science, and who pronounce them inadmissible, not because they do not effect the desired reconciliation, but simply because they are new to theology. They should remember that the *difficulty* also is new to theology; that enigmas cannot be solved until they are first propounded; that if the riddle be in reality a new one, the answer to it must of necessity be new likewise; and as this special riddle has been submitted to the geologists when the theologians were unaware of its existence, it must not be held a legitimate objection, that geologists, who feel that they possess, as responsible men, a stake in the question, should be the first to attempt solving it. If, however, it be, as I suspect, with our facts, not with our schemes of reconciliation, that the quarrel in reality lies,—if it be, in particular, with the special fact of the unequal antiquity of the existing plants and animals, and the comparatively recent introduction of man,—I would fain urge the objectors to examine ere they decide, and not rashly and in ignorance to commit themselves against truths which every day must render more