

operation of this law, the other great law of death came into action, and so the generations of succeeding periods found space to pursue their various instincts on platforms composed in no small part of the perished generations from which they had sprung. Throughout the whole incalculable past of our planet,—throughout all its unmeasured and unmeasurable periods,—the laws of production and decay have gone inseparably together; they were twin stars on the horizon, tinged by the complementary colours, and so inseparably associated, that the appearance of the one always heralded the rise of the other. And, to my mind at least, it does seem demonstrative of the full-orbed and perfect wisdom of the Divine Master of the Theologians, that He, with that quiet simplicity which Pascal so well designates the characteristic style of Godhead, and with a logic too profound to be appreciated at the time, should have coupled together the twin laws of production and decay, as equally inadmissible into that future state in which the life of man is to be no longer

‘Summed up in birthdays and in sepulchres.’

‘The children of the resurrection neither marry nor are given in marriage, neither can they die any more.’

From the Oolite, with its Liassic base, we pass on to the Triassic system,—a deposit less characteristically developed in England than on the Continent, but of much economic importance, from those vast beds of rock-salt which, in Britain at least, are exclusively restricted to this system; and of considerable geographic importance, from its great lateral extent. In Scotland¹ it occupies rather more than a hundred square miles of surface, chiefly in Dumfriesshire,

¹ There is good reason to believe that the red rocks overlying the coal of Cumberland, the red sandstones of Corncockle Muir, near Dumfries, the Ayrshire red sandstones, and those of the Isle of Arran, are all of the *Permian*, not Triassic, epoch. See *Siluria*, new edition, p. 351.—W.S.S.