

Progresses,—in their first, or at least earlier editions, ranged side by side with obsolete, long-forgotten volumes, their contemporaries, with whose unfamiliar titles we cannot connect a single association. And exactly such is the class of facts with which the geologist is called on to deal. He finds an immense multiplication of editions in the case of some particular type of fish, plant, or shell; and in the case of other types, no after instances of republication, or republication in merely a few restricted instances, and during a limited term. But while it is always easy to say why, in the race of editions, the one class of writings should have been arrested at the starting-post, and the other class should go down to be contemporary with every after production of authorship until the cultivation of letters shall have ceased, the geologist finds himself wholly unable to lay hold of any critical canon through which to determine why, in the organic world, one class of types should be so often republished, and another so peremptorily suppressed. This far, however, we may venture to infer, from finding the two classes under such a marked diversity of dispensation, that creation must have been a result, not of the operation of mere law, which would have dealt after the same fashion with both, but a consequence of the exercise of an elective will; and that as amid immense variety of effort and fertility of invention there are yet certain features of style, and a certain recurrence of words and phrases, that enable us to identify a great author, and to recognise a unity in his works that bespeaks the unity of the producing mind, so ought these connecting links and common features of widely-separated, and in the main dissimilar creations, to teach us the salutary lesson that the Author of all is One, and that, in the exercise of his unrestricted sovereignty and of his infinite wisdom, He chooses and rejects according to his own good pleasure.

From the plants of the swamps and forests of the Coal