

beings also,—contemporary with ourselves; and the *Terebratula* is but one existence of a class to which, though their generic antiquity may be rather less remote, nearly the same remark applies. The *ostrea* still exists,—its congener and contemporary the *gryphæa* has perished; the *nautilus* survives,—its congener and contemporary the ammonite is long since dead; the cuttle-fish abounds on our shores,—its congener and contemporary the *belemnite* is to be found in only our rocks. And thus the list runs on. We can scarce glance over a group of fossils, whatever its age, which we do not find divisible into two classes of types,—the types which still remain, and the types which have disappeared. But why the one set of forms should have been so repeatedly called into being, and why the other set should have been suffered to become obsolete, we cannot so much as surmise. Why, it may be asked, should the *nautilus* continue to exist, and yet the ammonite have ceased with the ocean that deposited the Chalk? or why should we have cuttle-fish in such abundance, and yet no *belemnites*? or why should not the *gryphæa* have been reproduced in every succeeding period with the oyster? In visiting some old family library, that has received no accessions to its catalogue for perhaps more than a century, one is interested in marking its more vivacious classes of works,—its *Spectators*, and *Robinson Crusoes*, and *Shakespeares*, and *Pilgrim's Progresses*, in their first, or at least earlier editions, ranged side by side with obsolete, long-forgotten volumes, their contemporaries, that died on their first appearance, and with whose unfamiliar titles one cannot connect a single association. But it is always easy to say why, in the race of editions, the one class should have been arrested at the very starting-post, and why the other should have gone down to be contemporary with every after production of authorship, until the cultivation of letters shall have ceased. It is otherwise, however, with the geologist. He finds he has exactly the same sort of fact to deal with,