

and showed in their structure a synthesis of features belonging to each of the four classes of vertebrates.

The dawn of a new dominant idea in Nature is often foreshadowed by penumbral types of an anticipatory character. The earliest representatives of a comprehensive type were generally prophetic. Before reptiles were created, hints of coming reptiles were dropped in the constitution of the fishes, as in the concavo-convex vertebræ of the Ganoids. The winged bird was foreshadowed by the flying and feathered reptiles; and mammals were heralded by the whale-like and paddle-bearing Ichthyosaurs. What but prophetic types were all the first-formed creatures belonging to the four grand categories of structure, from which have been developed the diversified beings of after ages? All possibilities of vertebrate existence were folded up in the constitution of the first fish which Omnipotence called into being. In the organization of those primordial Trilobites which figure in the vignette of animal history were wrapped up in potentiality all the species which creative power has since evolved from the articulate type—lobsters, barnacles, centipedes, spiders, butterflies, beetles. These forms were all in full view of the Intelligence which executed the plan that involved them, and which, in its destined unfolding, must set them free upon the earth.

Most impressive are the facts which show the ideas of the far-off coming ages wandering in advance of their time among the creations of an existing world, like streaks of morning light which herald the approaching sun through all the sky, while the world still sleeps under the reign of darkness. It is as if the thoughts of the Creator were busied with the plans of the distant future, while his hands are occupied with the work of to-day. Thus were incorporated in the organisms of one age hints of the features which were to blossom and unfold in the dominant ideas