

ning, made it<sup>1</sup> “impossible to refer the first inhabitants of the earth to a few stocks, subsequently differentiated under the influence of external conditions of existence.” . . . He adds:<sup>2</sup> “I have elsewhere presented my views upon the development through which the successive creations have passed during the history of our planet. But what I wish to prove here, by a careful discussion of the facts reported in the following pages, is the truth of the law now so clearly demonstrated in the series of vertebrates, that the successive creations have undergone phases of development analogous to those of the embryo in its growth and similar to the gradations shown by the present creation in the ascending series, which it presents as a whole. One may consider it as henceforth proved that the embryo of the fish during its development, the class of fishes as it at present exists in its numerous families, and the type of fish in its planetary history, exhibit analogous phases through which one may follow the same creative thought like a guiding thread in the study of the connection

<sup>1</sup> Introduction to the *Poissons Fossiles du Vieux Grès Rouge*, p. 21.

<sup>2</sup> Introduction to the *Poissons Fossiles du Vieux Grès Rouge*, p. 24.