would be more abundant in or entirely confined to the north, while others would show a greater development in the opposite quarter. Still, there would be such a similarity throughout the whole, that no naturalist would hesitate to regard the organisms as those of one biological province, and belonging to the same great geological period. The region is so small, and its conditions of life so uniform and uninterrupted, that no marked distinction can be drawn between the forms of life in its different parts.

Widening the area of observation, we perceive that as we recede from any given point on the earth's surface the existing forms of life gradually change. Vegetation alters its aspect from climate to climate, and with it come corresponding transformations in the characters of insects, birds, and wild animals. A lake-bottom would preserve one suite of organisms in England, but a very different group at the foot of the Himalaya Mountains, yet the deposits at the two places might be absolutely coeval, even as to months and days. If, therefore, in the geological past there has been, as there is now, a grading of plants and animals in great biological provinces, marked off by differences of contour, climate, and geological history, we must conclude that, while strict contemporaneity cannot be predicted of deposits containing the same organic remains, it may actually be true of deposits in which they are quite distinct.[23]

If, then, at the present time, community of organic forms, except in the case of some almost world-wide spe-

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[23] The present geographical distribution of plants and animals has a profound geological interest, but cannot be properly discussed in this volume. The student will find it luminously treated in Darwin's "Origin of Species," chaps. xii. and xiii.; Lyell's "Principles of Geology," chaps. xxxviii.–xli.; and in Wallace's "Geographical Distribution of Animals," 2 vols. 1876, and his "Island Life," 1880.