

It is probable that to many persons inexperienced in anatomy, any kind of information on a subject so remote, and apparently so inaccessible, as the intestinal structure of an extinct reptile or a fossil fish, may at first appear devoid of the smallest possible importance; but it assumes a character of high value, in the investigation of the proofs of creative wisdom and design, that are unfolded by the researches of Geology; and supplies a new link to that important chain, which connects the lost races that formerly inhabited our planet, with species that are actually living and moving around ourselves.* The systematic recurrence, in animals of such distant eras, of the same contrivances, similarly disposed to effect similar purposes, with analogous adaptations to peculiar conditions of existence, shows that they all originated in the same Intelligence.

When we see the body of an Ichthyosaurus, still containing the food it had eaten just before its death, and its ribs still surrounding the remains of fishes, that were swallowed ten thou-

* Le temps qui répand de la dignité sur tout ce qui échappe à son pouvoir destructeur, fait voir ici un exemple singulier de son influence: ces substances si viles dans leur origine, étant rendues à la lumière après tant de siècles, deviennent d'une grande importance puis qu'elles servent à remplir un nouveau chapitre dans l'histoire naturelle du globe.—Bulletin Soc. Imp. de Moscow, No. VI. 1833, p. 23.