

sustaining Creator, in whose Will and Power, these harmonious systems originated, and by whose Universal Providence, they are, and have at all times been, maintained.

### *Fossil Pandaneæ.*

The Pandaneæ, or Screw-Pines, form a monocotyledonous family which now grows only in the warmer zones, and chiefly within the influence of the sea; they abound in the Indian Archipelago, and the islands of the Pacific Ocean. Their aspect is that of gigantic Pine apple plants having arborescent stems. (See Pl. 63, Fig. 1.)

This family of Plants seems destined, like the Cocoa nut Palm, to be among the first vegetable Colonists of new lands just emerging from the ocean; they are found together almost universally by navigators on the rising Coral islands of tropical seas. We have just been considering the history of the fossil stems of Cycadeæ in the Isle of Portland, from which we learn that Plants of that now Extra-european family were natives of Britain, during the period of the Oolite formation. The unique and beautiful fossil fruit represented in our figures (Plate 63, Figs. 2, 3, 4,) affords probable evidence of the existence of another tropical family nearly allied to the Pandaneæ at