

The laws of nature, as we have shown, are in all cases most rigidly adhered to by the Deity. These laws, therefore, are unalterably stable, within the limits, which have been assigned to them. Now, from what we know of the laws of nature, or of the properties of the elements of matter, or of the agents by which they are moved; it is, as we have already stated, impossible to conceive that carbon, water, and electricity, of their own accord, and from any inherent influence, can so unite as to form the humblest plant or animal; much less, so as to secure its perpetual existence by reproduction. For similar reasons it is equally impossible to conceive, that there can ever be such a spontaneous arrangement or combination of *inferior* organic agents, as to form a *superior* agent: and when a new and specific agent is required, a new and specific act of creation must be performed by the Great Architect of the universe. We consider it, therefore, impossible that by any accidental concurrence of circumstances, a dog can, in the progress of time, be gradually converted into an ape, or an ape into a man; and moreover, we not only think such an hypothesis directly at variance with the whole tenor of the laws of nature, but quite absurd.

Nearly similar remarks apply to the opinion that the living principle is the *result* of organiza-