

Trees and their members, and even entire forests are found in similar situations.

In general, the bones and trees are not mineralized, but are rather, for the most part, in the condition of grave bones or ancient wood.

The bones could not be found in the older strata, as the animals were evidently not in existence when those strata were deposited. Much less could we expect to find human bones in them, for man was not created till the earth was reduced to order, and many generations of animals and plants, had lived and died; depositing their remains in the rocks, whose formation was contemporaneous or immediately subsequent, or whose materials were accumulated, by catastrophes that also overwhelmed the organized beings.

The relics of plants, (the coal formations excepted,) are far less numerous than those of animals. It is in no way surprising that their creation should have been successive, and associated with different rock formations, and when the same plants occur in repetitions of the same or of different formations, their seeds or roots might have been preserved, and transported from other places, by the waters or other causes.

That state of things which attended a particular rocky deposition, may have been such, when the same kind of rock came to be deposited again, as to favor the production of the same animal or vegetable races from the germs, seeds, roots or individuals that had been preserved.

In the same latitudes, there is now, on the earth, a great regularity in the vegetable species, and in a less rigorous degree, in the animal races.

There is every reason to believe, that the creation of animals and plants was successive; not by equivocal generation—not by atomic action, but by the fiat of the Almighty.

*Early animals—wood—trees—coal.*

Among the primitive rocks there are no traces of vegetation, any more than of animal life. But we repeat in this connexion, that we no sooner reach the transition rocks, than both animals and plants begin to appear; the animals, however, are marine, and are vastly more numerous than the plants. There is no reason to believe that plants appeared until there were shores, and even marine plants must have, in general, points of attachment in shallow waters.