received its living tenants with their shelly habitations; from their first creation growing up to the preservation of individual life, increasing and multiplying their kinds, and generation succeeding generation till the species becomes extinct. Though perfect knowledge is not possessed, yet there are reasons for believing that the duration of life to testacean individuals of the present races is several years. But who can state the *proportion* which the average length of life to the individual mollusc or conchifer, bears to the duration appointed by the Creator to the species?—Take any one of the six or seven thousand known recent species. Let it be a Buccinum, of which 120 species are ascertained, (one of which is the commonly known *whelk*;) or a Cypræa, comprising about as many, (a well-known species is on almost every mantel-piece, the *tiger-cowry*;) or an Ostrea, (*oyster*,) of which 130 species are described. We have reason to think that the individuals have a natural life of at least six or seven years: but we have no reason to suppose that any one species has died out, since the Adamic creation. May we then, for the sake of an illustrative argument, take the duration of testacean species, one with another, at 1000 times the life of the individual? May we say, 6000 years? —We are dealing very liberally with our opponents.——Yet, in examining the vertical evidences of the cessations of the fossil species, marks are found of an entire change in the forms of animal life; we find such cessations and changes to have occurred MANY times, in the thickness of but a few hundred feet of these slate-rocks. But the homogeneous or nearly homogeneous deposit consists of many thousand feet; and it is only one of several, perhaps four, great formations which constitute this early system.

But when we rise to the Silurian formations, we find a long succession of strata, many thousand feet in thickness, and imbedding not fewer than 375 species belonging to the animal kingdom;—corallines, encrinites, analogues of crab and lobster, bivalve and univalve shells, and the skeletons and detached bones of fish.

The Old Red Sandstone, now called by a preferable name, the Devonian system, had been thought to be almost destitute of organic remains; but recent researches, particularly in Scotland, have brought to light numerous and highly interesting bones and skeletons of fishes: but none of them are such as belong to the present order of creation. They are all of species, and even genera, not now existing: and the same observation is to be made with respect to the fishes which occur more abundantly in a very thick and extensive formation which comes much later in the geological series, the New Red Sandstone, and especially that which is usually considered as one of its subordinate parts, the Magnesian Limestone.