

modern discoveries. In Scotland, in the country examined by Mr. Murchison, [the Silurian region,] and above all in North and South Devon, the Old Red Sandstone contains innumerable regular beds, with fossils which have lived and died where we find them; that is, in the same *relative* situation, as of course they [with the entire seabottom mass in which had been their habitation] had been lifted bodily out of the sea by elevatory forces. Subordinate to it are lines upon lines of old Coral-reefs and other calcareous masses, full of organic structures, and indicating most emphatically long periods of time. The organic types [in this Old Red] are of an *intermediate* character, between the types of the Silurian and Cambrian and the types of the Mountain Limestone.

“Every thing indicates a very long and very slow progression:—one creation flourishing and performing its part, and gradually dying off as it has so performed its part; and another actual creation of *new* beings, *not derived as progeny* from the former, gradually taking its place; and again this new creation succeeded by a *third*. Nothing *per saltum*; all according to law and order; all bearing the impress of MIND, a great dominant *will*, at the bidding of which all parts of nature have their peculiar movements, their periods of revolution, their rise and fall.”

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“These alternations of Limestone beds [see above, page 324,] full of fossils (shells and zoophytes) prove the slow progression of the series. Each Limestone bed must have taken a long time for its formation, *yet many* of them *alternate with beds of Coal*. There are regular shell-beds in the Coal-strata, stretching scores of miles. These shells often have both valves united, like common living muscles on the sea-shore; and [thus it is shown that they] have not been transported. They prove that a few inches of strata required a time equal to the lives of several generations of these muscles.—Many of the fossil-plants appear not to have drifted from the spots where they grew; and we have enormous trees, with rings of growth marking their great age: all in the Coal-fields. Yet all the plants are absolutely of *extinct* species, though of a structure that allows a botanist to reason on their habits. The God of nature is ‘without variableness or shadow of turning.’ Different species were created to suit different conditions of the earth, air, and sea: but the organs of life were the same; and of their modes of growth, nutrition, reproduction, &c. &c., animal or vegetable, we can reason as well as if we saw them. For there are *great dominant laws* of organic life which mark ONE MIND; the very Mind that made us, and has given us eyes to see, and