

## THE DEVELOPMENT HYPOTHESIS.

Much speculation has been created of late by what is called the development hypothesis. As put forth by the author of the 'Vestiges of Creation,' it finds the original of all things in fire mist.

and a native of New Holland, to have elaborated, in the solitudes of their respective forests, the Humean doctrine of causation, and inferred, from their respective fields of observation, that the creation was a solitary and singular effect. If our two sceptics were to change countries, they would be introduced to scenes where not a plant or an animal would be known to them. The idea of the world being a singular effect would give place to a very different conclusion. Such is the effect which the contemplation of the various provinces of the vegetable and animal kingdoms would produce. We see in Australia animals organised in a peculiar manner, different from those of all other countries—we find not singularity, but diversity—we find distinct realms of creation.

The case becomes infinitely more striking when, from the living provinces of creation, we turn to the periods of the extinct races. Here, in as far as the vegetable and animal kingdoms are concerned, we cannot with any propriety of language call the organic world a singular effect. When contemplating the fossil species, we can look back to a period when they were not—a long cycle of ages, during which they lived and multiplied—and ultimately an epoch when, having fulfilled their allotted part, they ceased to exist. It is also to be remembered, that from the first ascertained appearance of living beings on our earth, down to the present creation, this wonderful revolution has happened repeatedly.

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