of blackened oak, — a noble tree of the dicotyledonous division, — the highest to which vegetation in its upward course has yet attained. Nor is the progress of the other great branch of organized being — that of the animal kingdom — less distinctly traceable. The zoophytes became crustacea and molluscs, — the crustacea and molluscs, dog-fishes and herrings, — the dog-fish, a low placoid, shot up chiefly into turbot, cod, and ling; but the smaller osseous fish was gradually converted into a batrachian reptile; in short, the herring became a frog, — an animal that still testifies to its ichthyological origin, by commencing life as a fish. Gradually, in the course of years, the reptile, expanding in size and improving in faculty, passed into a warm-blooded porpoise; the porpoise at length, tiring of the water as he began to know better, quitted it altogether, and became a monkey, and the monkey by slow degrees improved into man, — yes, into man, my friend, who has still a tendency, especially when just shooting up to his full stature, and studying the 'Vestiges,' to resume the monkey. Such, Sir, is the true history of creation, as clearly recorded in the section of earth, moss, and silt, which you have so opportunely laid bare. Where that ditch now opens, the generations of the man atop lived, died, and were developed. *There* flourished and decayed his great-great-great-great-grandfather the sea-pen, — his great-great-great-grandfather the mussel, — his great-great-grandfather the herring, — his great-grandfather the frog, — his grandfather the porpoise, — and his father the monkey. And *there* also lived, died, and were developed, the generations of the oak, from the kelp-weed and tangle to the reed and the flag, and from the reed and the flag, to the pine, the juniper, the hazel, and the birch."

"Master," replies the farmer, "I see you are a scholar,