

ammonite raised its tiny sails to the breeze, as the belemnite, with its many arms, shot past below,—that nameless birds mingled with flying reptiles,—and that, while the fierce crocodile watched in his pool for prey, the gigantic iguanodon stretched his long length of eighty feet in the sand. But who shall reveal the higher history of the time? The reign of war and of death had commenced long before; and who shall assert that moral evil had not long before cast its blighting shadows over the universe,—that there had not been that war in heaven in which the uncreated angel had overthrown the dragon,—or that unhappy intelligences did not wander, ‘seeking rest, but finding none,’ in an earth of ‘waste places,’ whose future sovereign still lay hid in the deep purposes of Eternity?

ASTREA OF THE OOLITE, SUTHERLAND.

THE same deposit in which I found the wood embedded contains large masses of coral, all apparently of one species,—not a branching coral, but of the kind which consists of large stone-like masses covered on the surface with stellular impressions, framed in polygons, and which composes the genus *Astrea*. I picked up one very fine specimen, which I have since got cut through and polished. It presents a polygonal partitioning, of a delicate cream-colour, that somewhat resembles the cells of a honeycomb. Each cell is filled with a brownish ground of carbonate of lime; and on this ground of brown there is a cream-coloured star, composed of rays that proceed from the centre to the sides. One of these corals measured two feet and a half across in one direction, by two feet in another; and if it grew as slowly as some of its order in the present scene of things, its living existence must have stretched over a term of not less extent than that of its contemporary the pine of the hundred rings. Some of