tem which lies more immediately beneath the Coal, has also
been explored, and its various deposits, with their peculiar
organic remains, enumerated and described. And Sir Charles
Lyell, setting himself to the other extremity of the scale, has
wrought out the Tertiary formations, and separated them into
the four great divisions which they are now recognised as
forming. And of these, the very names indicate that certain
proportions of their organisms still continue to exist. It is
a great fact, now fully established in the course of geological
discovery, that between the plants which in the present time
cover the earth, and the animals which inhabit it, and the
animals and plants of the later extinct creations, there occur-
red no break or blank, but that, on the contrary, many of the
existing organisms were contemporary during the morning of
their being with many of the extinct ones during the evening
of theirs. We know further, that not a few of the shells
which now live on our coasts, and several of even the wild
animals which continue to survive amid our tracts of hill and
forest, were in existence many ages ere the human age began.
Instead of dating their beginning only a single natural day,
or at most two natural days, in advance of man, they must
have preceded him by many thousands of years. In fine, in
consequence of that comparatively recent extension of geolo-
gic fact in the direction of the later systems and formations,
through which we are led to know that the present creation
was not cut off abruptly from the preceding one, but that, on
the contrary, it dovetailed into it at a thousand different
points, we are led also to know, that any scheme of reconci-
liation which would separate between the recent and the ex-
tinct existences by a chaotic gulf of death and darkness, is
a scheme which no longer meets the necessities of the case.
Though perfectly adequate forty years ago, it has been greatly
outgrown by the progress of geological discovery, and is, as
I have said, adequate no longer ; and it becomes a not unim-