

first who, after the revival of learning, asserted the true character of organic remains,—that fossils were formed in the rocks through the planetary influences, or a certain plastic force in nature, and had never entered into the composition of living creatures or plants. And this view obtained very generally till about the middle of the seventeenth century, when, save for a brief space long after, in the times of Voltaire, it ceased to be regarded as any longer tenable. Curiously enough, however, it was virtually reproduced by one of the extant anti-geologists,—a clergyman of the English Church,—only three years ago, in a publication written, he says, to counteract “the immense mischief occasioned by the infidel works of geologists, *especially among the lower classes*,” and which he has termed “a brief and complete refutation” of their “anti-scriptural theory.”* “Fossils,” says this courageous writer, “were not necessarily animated structures ;” some of them were in all probability “formed of stone from the very first ;” others, of inanimate flesh and bone. “The mammoth found under the ice in arctic regions had not necessarily been a living creature : it was created under the ice, and then preserved in that peculiar form of preservation, instead of being transmuted into stone, like the rest of its class.” Such was the state of keeping of this famous mammoth when discovered a little ere the beginning of the present century, that, as I had occasion formerly to remark, dogs and bears fed upon its flesh ; and its bones, and part of its skin, covered with long red hair, are now in the Museum of Petersburg. But there is no evidence whatever, according to this writer, that it had ever been a living creature : it was simply a created carcase. All organisms are, he holds, models or archetypes, fashioned during the first day in the depths of chaos,

* “A Brief and Complete Refutation of the Anti-Scriptural Theory of Geologists.” By a Clergyman of the Church of England. London : Wertheim & Macintosh. 1853.