

CHAPTER VI.

THEORY OF DEVELOPMENT ACCORDING TO LYELL
AND DARWIN.

Charles Lyell's Principles of Geology.—His Natural History of the Earth's Development.—Origin of the Greatest Effects through the Multiplication of the Smallest Causes.—Unlimited Extent of Geological Periods.—Lyell's Refutation of Cuvier's History of Creation.—The Establishment of the Uninterrupted Connection of Historical Development by Lyell and Darwin.—Biographical Notice of Charles Darwin.—His Scientific Works.—His Theory of Coral Reefs.—Development of the Theory of Selection.—A Letter of Darwin's.—The Contemporaneous Appearance of Darwin's and Alfred Wallace's Theory of Selection.—Darwin's Study of Domestic Animals and Cultivated Plants.—Andreas Wagner's notions as to the Special Creation of Cultivated Organisms for the Good of Man.—The Tree of Knowledge in Paradise.—Comparison between Wild and Cultivated Organisms.—Darwin's Study of Domestic Pigeons.—Importance of Pigeon-breeding.—Common Descent of all Races of Pigeons.

DURING the thirty years, from 1830 until 1859, when Darwin's work appeared, the ideas of creation introduced by Cuvier remained predominant in the sciences of organic nature. People rested satisfied with the unscientific assumption, that in the course of the earth's history, a series of inexplicable revolutions had periodically annihilated the whole world of animals and plants, and that at the end of each revolution, and the beginning of a new period, a new,