

than those we have been examining in the case of the Pterodactyle. We find the details of parts which, from their minuteness should seem insignificant, acquiring great importance in such an investigation as we are now conducting; they show not less distinctly, than the colossal limbs of the most gigantic quadrupeds, a numerical coincidence, and a concurrence of proportions, which it seems impossible to refer to the effect of accident; and which point out unity of purpose, and deliberate design, in some intelligent First Cause, from which they were all derived. We have seen that whilst all the laws of existing organization in the order of Lizards, are rigidly maintained in the Pterodactyles; still, as Lizards modified to move like birds and Bats in the air, they received, in each part of their frame, a perfect adaptation to their state. We have dwelt more at length on the minutiae of their mechanism, because they convey us back into ages so exceedingly remote, and show that even in those distant eras, the same care of a common Creator, which we witness in the mechanism of our own bodies, and those of the myriads of inferior creatures that move around us, was extended to the structure of creatures, that at first sight seem made up only of monstrosities.