

tems of vegetation, on the earlier surfaces of our earth, with those which actually prevail. Should it result from this enquiry, that the families which make up our fossil Flora were formed on principles, either identical with those that regulate the development of existing plants, or so closely allied to them, as to form connected parts of one and the same great system of laws, for the universal regulation of organic life, we shall add another link to the chain of arguments which we extract from the interior of the Earth, in proof of the Unity of the Intelligence and of the Power, which have presided over the entire construction of the material world.

We have seen that the first remains of Animal life yet noticed are marine, and as the existence of any kind of animals implies the prior, or at least the contemporaneous existence of Vegetables, to afford them sustenance, the presence of *sea weeds* in strata coeval with these most ancient animals, and their continuance onwards throughout all formations of marine origin, is a matter of *a priori* probability, which has been confirmed by the results of actual observation. M. Adolphe Brongniart, in his admirable History of Fossil Vegetables,* has shewn, that the existing *submarine vegetation* seems to admit of three great divisions which characterize, to a certain degree, the Plants of the frigid, temperate, and torrid zones; and

* Histoire des Végétaux Fossiles, 4to. Paris, 1828.