

then of spears and shields, swords and guns, lucifer-matches, railways, electric telegraphs; since when even the great whale has given in his adhesion to the new king, Steam, and is dying out of the way quietly.

One fact more deserves to be borne in mind: that is, the immensity of time since life first began. Originally only Plutonic or Eruptive rocks existed. As these yielded to weathering, they produced sediments which assisted to form the very earliest stratified rocks. Again, these in their turn were denuded wherever elevated above the sea, and assisted to form by their wreck the Palæozoic strata, from all of which the Secondary and Tertiary formations have in like manner been made. But animals, by their labours and accumulated skeletons, have probably contributed more largely than any other source to build up the masses of the sedimentary rocks. Nor is it to the highest in the zoological scale that this task of mountain-building has been entrusted by Nature; on the contrary, the two humblest classes the PROTOZOA and CŒLENTERATA, have been chosen to rear these imperishable monuments; whilst our great stores of mineral fuel, upon the *continuity* of which the vast industries of this country depend, are the result of the accumulated growth and decay of lowly organized Cryptogamic plants, allied to our existing club-mosses and Equisetaceæ.

VISIT TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—APRIL 18TH, 1874.

Director—PROFESSOR MORRIS, F.G.S., Honorary Member
of the Geologists' Association.

The portion of the Natural History Department of the Great National Museum devoted to the display of the Mollusca, was visited on this occasion by the Association. The more prominent of the distinguishing characters of the principal divisions or Classes of the Sub-kingdom Mollusca, were described by the Director, who illustrated his lecture by the beautiful specimens, which are so well preserved and so well shown in the cases.
