

We found some of the glacial shells of the Clyde beds living on the northern outskirts of our region, — *Tellina calcarea*, for instance, was very common in some of the Fjords in Færoe. It seems evident that this fauna quietly retreated northwards in the face of slowly altering circumstances. Such an instance of change of fauna, which we are able in a great degree to trace step by step, has an interesting bearing upon the great question of the contemporaneity of beds containing generally the same fauna at distant localities. We can well imagine that a block of perfectly recent silt might be brought from a locality on the verge of the Arctic circle, imbedding precisely the same species of mollusca as those contained in a block of the Clyde glacial clay, and the mineral character of the matrix in the two cases might correspond most closely; applying the ordinary geological rule, those two blocks agreeing in their palæontological characters ought to be contemporaneous,—but we know that while the northern silt belongs to the present period, the British glacial clays are overlain by a deep series of modern deposits, representing the lapse of a period of time considerable even in a geological sense, and containing a fauna of a very different character. This is no doubt a comparatively trifling case, involving beds of no great depth or importance, but it is a case in which two beds correspond palæontologically, and yet we *know* that they are not contemporaneous from one of them being overlain by a considerable thickness of newer strata, while the other is now forming, and thus furnishes a date, a rare and valuable thing in geology.