

of this I will quote two passages in two consecutive anniversary addresses by Presidents of the Geological Society, and we may have every confidence that the statements of men of so great weight, made under such circumstances, indicate the tendency of sound and judicious thought. Professor Huxley, in the anniversary address for the year 1870, says:—"Many years ago¹ I ventured to speak of the Atlantic mud as 'modern chalk,' and I know of no fact inconsistent with the view which Professor Wyville Thomson has advocated, that the modern chalk is not only the lineal descendant, so to speak, of the ancient chalk, but that it remains, so to speak, in possession of the ancestral estate; and that from the cretaceous period (if not much earlier) to the present day, the deep sea has covered a large part of what is now the area of the Atlantic. But if *Globigerina* and *Terebratula caput-serpentis* and *Beryx*, not to mention other forms of animals and of plants, thus bridge over the interval between the present and the mezozoic periods, is it possible that the majority of other living things underwent a sea-change into something new and strange all at once?"

And Mr. Prestwich, in the presidential address for 1871, says:—"Therefore, although I think it highly probable that some considerable portion of the deep sea-bed of the mid-Atlantic has continued submerged since the period of our chalk, and although the more adaptable forms of life may have been transmitted in unbroken succession through this channel, the immigrations of other and more recent faunas may have so modified the old population, that the original

¹ Saturday Review, 1858: "Chalk, Ancient and Modern."