to us as a trilobite, seldom exceeded a foot in length and two-thirds of that in width; but for the most part, specimens found are rarely more than from two to four inches long. Corals, in some respects ranking amongst our most poverty-stricken ancestors, were extremely abundant; in fact, most of the limestone found in the Province is the result of their labours, "far down in the depths of the dark blue sea," as Mrs. Hemans says, although she makes a mistake in referring to the polyps as "an *insect* train."

From the existence of corals, it is pretty evident that the seas overlying what are now our farms, and gardens, and streets, must have had at least a moderately high temperature, otherwise the coral-makers of those days flourished where their recent congeners would perish of cold.

When the coal-miner finds impressions of reeds, ferns, and coniferous plants in the roof of his deep, dark, and highly dangerous workshop, he says, "Once these were green, flourished, and bore fruit." When the forms of fish are found embedded in the old red sandstone of Scotland, or when the skulls and teeth of more richly endowed relatives are met with, the observer has no hesitation in concluding that all these are the remains of creatures that existed and enjoyed life, we cannot tell how long ago.

We, in like manner, are justified in stating that our coral, and shell, and crustacean impressions, are all that is left of some poor relations who lived life's little span, to eat, or to be eaten, when this portion of the empire was some thousands, perhaps some millions of years younger than in the year of grace, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two.

But this is a comparatively recent theory. Time was, and not very far back either, when the Evil One was credited with the production of the various fossil forms then known, and this he was supposed to have done in a vain attempt to vie with his own Creator, in imitating the works of the Great Architect Himself.

Speculation always goes abroad with the schoolmaster, and it is the duty of the schoolmaster to do what he can in giving direction to it, and not only to point out the channels through which it may be pursued, but to guard the possible and probable speculators against the dangers and difficulties that lie in the way. In other words, it is our duty—yours and mine—not to cramp thought, certainly not to smother it, but, rather to encourage its legitimate exercise by every means in our power; and if not ourselves leading the race, neither, most assuredly, to be found bringing up the rear; nor as stragglers whom the great army of thinkers has marched away from and left to perish in the enemy's confines.

Few, if any, departments of human thought teem more largely with vital interest to us than those affecting the life-history of our poor relations—the Natural Sciences. From an imaginative point of view, these stand unrivalled amid all the subjects upon which it is possible for man to bestow his attention; while, practically, our social, moral, and physical well-being depend very largely indeed upon the results deducible from their careful and conscientious study, and the method of presentation adopted in laying these results before an intelligent, wide-awake community, for consideration.

Perhaps we shall always be afflicted with wild-goose theorists; with those who, either for notoriety's sake, or owing to that kind of impetuosity, which, scorning common-sense dictates, must needs launch into print, propagating *bizarre* or absurd opinions, to the unutterable detestation