

generally to the freshness and newness which they possessed at the close of the glacial period. The beginning of the cessation of this period corresponds with the origin of the present distribution of insect life or with the commencement of the ascent of the individuals from the tropics towards the poles. This is represented on a small scale every year in the change from winter to summer, and the two periods of time agree with two aspects of the earth, the transition from the tropics towards the poles, and the upward extent of an alp, the latter being more or less an epitome of the former. It may be said by those who do not believe in the migration and settlement of insects, that the species were created in the districts which they now occupy. In this case it would appear that their creation was successive, and that they came into existence more northward and southward in proportion as the glacial climate receded. But, as each district became fitted for the maintenance of insect life, the inhabitants of the neighbouring district would be ready to occupy the vacant ground, and it is well known that the same species of insect often occurs in two or more widely separated regions. One species inhabits Europe and Chili, and may have migrated from the tropics northward and southward as the climate changed. There are indications that the tropic land was formerly much larger in extent than it is now, and would have afforded space for the multitude of insects which now inhabit the comparatively narrow temperate regions. A third explanation of the distribution of insects is the supposition of the origin of existing species by modifications of previous and now extinct organisms. No kind of insect life has been traced back to its beginning, and the blending of species which occurs in some genera locally (e.g. the Dipterous genera *Laphria* and *Dacus*), and which may be interrupted in other genera by the extinction of former connecting links, is no proof that each species did not first appear in the form which it now assumes, and the blending before mentioned represents the oneness and harmony of creation, and the unity of its Author.

The word "species" is only conventional, to express a difference, and there is no proof as to its beginning in two, in a few, or in many individuals, or that the differences were not formerly closed up by the links which are now extinct. Long periods of time have been described in the figures of short and regularly recurring divisions, and thus the occurrences therein are more readily comprehended, and in like manner the long space of earth and the long extent of time before mentioned are