

the hummocks. This hunting ground or Everglade as it is so called, is an old channel, changed first to mud-flats and then to dry land by the same kind of accumulation that is filling up the present channels, and the row of hummocks is but an old Coral Reef with the Keys or islands of past days upon its summit. Seven such Reefs and channels of former times have already been traced between the shore-bluffs and Lake Okeecho-bee, adding some fifty thousand years to our previous estimate. Indeed, upon the lowest calculation, based upon the facts thus far ascertained as to their growth, we cannot suppose that less than seventy thousand years have elapsed since the Coral Reefs already known to exist in Florida began to grow. When we remember that this is but a small portion of the peninsula, and that, though we have not yet any accurate information as to the nature of its interior, yet the facts already ascertained in the northern part of this State, formed like its Southern extremity of Coral growth, justify the inference that the whole of the peninsula is formed of successive concentric Reefs, we must believe that hundreds of thousands of years have elapsed since its formation began. Leaving aside, however, all that part of its history which is not susceptible of positive demonstration in the present state of our knowledge, I will limit my results to the evidence of facts already within our possession; and these give us as the lowest possible estimate a period of seventy thousand years for the formation of that part of the peninsula which extends south of Lake Okeecho-bee to the present outer Reef.

Here we have an unequalled opportunity of judging as to the Permanence of Species. Shall we find that in these insignificant forms of life, there is any evidence of change, disorder or transmutation? Shall we find any symptoms of "progressive development," or "selection,"—any proof that the laws which separate, "each after its kind," every seed that renews and multiplies the successive generations of the living, are not just as binding at this day as ever before—were not just as binding "in the beginning," as they are now? Let Agassiz answer:

So much for the duration of the Reefs themselves. What, now, do they tell us of the permanence of the Species by which they are formed? In these seventy thousand years has there been any change in the Corals living in the Gulf of Mexico? I answer most emphatically, *No*. *Astræans*, *Porites*, *Mæandrinæ*, and *Mædrepores* were represented by exactly the same Species seventy thousand years ago as they are now. Were we to classify the Florida Corals from the Reefs of the interior, the result would correspond exactly to a classification founded upon the living Corals of the outer Reef to-day. * * * Every Species, in short, that lives upon the present Reef is found in the more ancient ones. They all belong to our geological period, and we cannot, upon the evidence before

us, estimate its duration at less than seven thousand years, during which no evidence of a change in Species, but on the contrary the strongest proof of the absolute permanence of those Species whose past history we have been able to trace.—*Country Gentleman*.

SAGACITY OF A DOG.—A short time ago a dog, well known to the railway officials from frequent travelling with his master, presented himself at one of the stations on the Fleetwood, Preston, and Longridge line. After looking round for some length of time amongst the passengers and in the carriages, just as the train was about to start he leaped into one of the compartments of a carriage, and laid himself down under the seat. Arriving at Longridge, he waited until the station had been cleared, then went into the Railway Station Hotel, searched all the places on the ground floor, then went on to the upper part of the building, and made a tour of inspection over the adjoining grounds; but being apparently unsuccessful, he returned back to the train, and took his old position just as it moved off. On reaching the station from which he had first started, he again looked around as before, and took his departure. It seems that he now proceeded to the Great Northern Railway Station at Preston, and after repeating the looking around performance, placed himself under one of the seats in a train which he singled out of the many that are constantly plying in and out, and in due time arrived in Liverpool. He now visited a few places which he had been with his master, of whom, afterwards appeared, he was in search. Of his adventures in Liverpool little is known; but he remained all night, and visited Preston again early next morning. Still not finding his master, he for the fourth time "took the train"—this time, however, to Lancaster. Carlisle, at which latter place the sagacity, faithfulness of the animal, as well as the perseverance and tact he displayed in prosecuting his search, were rewarded by finding his master. *Recollections of a Sportsman. By Lord Lennox.*

Editorial Notices, &c.

The Provincial Exhibition.

We beg leave to direct the attention of readers to the advertisement which appears in another place as to the days for making entries of articles in the various classes for approaching Provincial Exhibition. Attention to these dates is absolutely necessary. We have every reason to anticipate that the Provincial Exhibition this autumn will be one of the most