

have been, humanly speaking, possible without such a supply of readily available fuel.

Assuming, as we may do, that the use of coal for many of the purposes in which it has been employed will now, ere long, be superseded—it will not be out of place here to remind those of our readers who have paid some attention to the geological record of the earth's history, of the long and careful preparation of that important element of our welfare as a civilized race . . . of the long Carboniferous Period, with its luxuriant vegetation . . . of the teeming and almost numberless successive generations of *Lepidodendra* and *Sagillariæ*, by means of which the carbon was taken from the atmosphere and made ready for the final conversion . . . of the long and changeful Permian Period, and . . . of those great disturbances of the earth's surface, belonging to that period, in which the preparation was completed, and the final conversion into beds of coal was consummated.

There have not been wanting some persons of education and partial scientific knowledge who, with a strange forgetfulness of One whose work is not imperfect, and whose plans do not fail, have fearfully predicted the exhaustion of the coal supply, and the consequent collapse of the material prosperity of the civilized world. The Verbal Record states that He who made the heavens and the earth hath also expressly declared that the earth has not been created in vain, and was made to be permanently inhabited. We believe the record and the declaration undoubtingly; and we understand that declaration to include the meaning that ample provision has been or will, when necessary, be made for the continued progressive advancement of (terrestrial) human civilization.