being found; only most exceptional cases, such as a few remains preserved in the antiseptic waters of peat bogs or a few frozen remains of Elephas, are given; but these exceptions only confirm the rule which is, viz., when there is anything left at all it is the shell or bones or their moulds or casts and no trace of the body is to be found. The fact that a few shells are sometimes found full of petroleum is a conclusive proof that this oil is a subsequent infiltration into the shell, as in the case of silt, silica, pyrites, calcite and many other minerals filling shells, a modicum of oil is all each shell would contain if the petroleum originated from the body, and invariably, when petroleum is found in fossil shells, it is also found in the porous or seamed strata in which the shells are embedded, showing the infiltration and impregnation from without.

Second. It is also equally certain that there is only but one normal process of decomposition and preservation of vegetable organic matter in nature to-day and in ages past, and that is the decomposition of it into carbonaceous matter, viz., peat, lignite and coal. This process is in active operation in the world to-day, as it has always been, and it is the only normal process "coeval with the kingdoms of life" that geology teaches us. Not one single authentic instance can be adduced, from the actual normal processes of nature, of any decomposition of organic matter "primarily" into petroleum. How could it be? The same conditions of low temperatures and of all other factors entering in the normal decomposition of vegetable remains must give only the one result and cannot possibly give two different ones, especially in the same strata and at the same places, for oil sands and coal beds are often contiguous. If then we do not find carbonaceous matter in any quantity below the carboniferous period, as the A B C of geology teaches us that we do not, the simple reason of it is, as long ago admitted by geologists, that, before that period, the favourable conditions for vegetable growth had not yet developed to any extent, and not that it was transformed into petroleum, as attested by the small quantity of carbonaceous matter found in the Devonian and Silurian strata, which are witness and proof that the one normal process of decomposition of vegetable matter into coal was then already going on.