

time of more specialized types, and thus that higher forms of low types, precede higher types and are often replaced by them. We are further, as the relation of varieties and species is investigated and their extension in time traced, becoming more and more convinced of the marvellous permanence of specific types, and of their powers of almost indefinite propagation in time. Lastly, vast stores of facts are being accumulated as to the migration of species from one area to another and as to the connection of the great secular elevations and subsidences of continents with their introduction and extinction. All these are substantial gains to science, and the time is at hand when they will lead to more stable theories of the earth than those now current. If I am not greatly mistaken, these considerations or some of them will be found to cover the case recently so much insisted on of the Tertiary predecessors of the modern Horse; a case which includes a great number of complicated and curious successions and relations, which we may hope to consider at a future time, when the American facts relating to them have been more fully elaborated.

I have however digressed from my special subject, and in returning to it, and in closing this address, would express my thankfulness that here in America we have a field for work on so broad a scale that there is little temptation to abandon the ever fresh and exciting exploration of new regions and the discovery of new facts, and the working out of legitimate conclusions, for that process of evolving worlds out of our own consciousness which seems to be the resource of those who have access only to the often ransacked treasuries of nature in smaller and older countries. Placed on a continent which in its geological development is the grandest and noblest of all, and which may be made a type for all the rest, let us push forward the conquests of legitimate science, and bear in mind that our present aim should be above all things the diminution of that imperfection of the geological record of which so much complaint is made.

The Report of the Chairman of Council was read by Mr. G. L. Marler, as follows:

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL.

At the close of another Session, your Council beg to submit the following Report:—