

American Indian, or as this does from the hair of the European. Examined under a high magnifying power, and with care, the difference in the qualities of all these kinds of hair, whether of the sheep or of man, colour apart, appear to be merely in degree. The wool of the sheep and its hair are both solid,—both exhibit the same transverse markings, the one strongly, the other feebly; and so of their other properties. The same may be said of the hair of the several varieties of the human race. And keeping to the analogy, with which all experience is in accordance, we may confidently conclude, that provident Nature has not been less careful of man than of the brute, and what is peculiar in the hair of each variety of the human race, as in the colour of the skin of each, is to be viewed rather as an excellence, connected with climate, and the effect of the adapting power of climate, than in any instance as a deformity or an unseemly defect.

LESKETH HOW, AMBLESIDE,  
6th March, 1852.

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*Sir Charles Lyell on Progressive Geological Development.*

Sir Charles Lyell in a lecture read at Ipswich a short time ago, on Progressive Development, concluded by explaining the theory which he had advocated in his works, in opposition to that of progressive development. He believed that there had been a constant going out and coming in of species, and a continual change going on in the position of land and sea, accompanied by great fluctuation in climate; that there had been a constant adaptation of the vegetable and animal creations to these new geographical and climatal conditions. At the present moment we found contemporaneously a marsupial fauna in Australia, and mammalia of a different and higher grade in Asia and Europe; we also found birds without mammalia in New Zealand, reptiles without land quadrupeds in the Galapagos Archipelago, and land quadrupeds without reptiles in Greenland. In like manner, in successive geological eras, certain classes, such as the reptiles, may have predominated over other vertebrata throughout wide areas; but there is no evidence that the adaptation of the fauna, as above explained, had been governed by any law of progressive development. In those classes of the invertebrata which were best known, and fully represented in a fossil state at all geological periods, the oldest or Silurian fauna was as highly developed as the corresponding fauna in the recent seas. Our ignorance of the inhabitants of the ancient lands was the chief cause of our scanty acquaintance with the highly-organized beings of remote epochs.—(*Literary Gazette*, No. 1824, p. 17.)



Lyell, Charles. 1853. "Sir Charles Lyell on progressive geological development." *Papers and proceedings of the Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land* 2(2), 359–359.

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