

unrecorded time; and that it would be inadmissible to speak of two portions of the same continuous deposit, however distant the times of their deposition might be, and however distinct their imbedded faunæ, as belonging to different 'Geological periods.'

It was certainly in this sense that in an address to a popular audience in April 1869 I ventured to state my belief that it is not only chalk which is being formed in the Atlantic, "but *the* chalk, the chalk of the cretaceous period." Sir Charles Lyell says, in summing up his objections to this view,¹ "The reader will at once perceive that the present Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans, are geographical terms which must be wholly without meaning when applied to the eocene, and still more to the cretaceous period, so that to talk of the chalk having been uninterruptedly formed in the Atlantic is as inadmissible in a geographical as in a geological sense." I confess I do not see the geographical difficulty; the "Atlantic ocean" is, undoubtedly, a geographical term, but the depression under discussion occupies the area at present expressed by that term, and to use it seems to be the simplest way of indicating its position. We believe that the balance of probability is greatly in favour of the chalk having been uninterruptedly forming over some parts of the area in question, and our belief is founded upon many considerations, physical and palæontological.

All the principal axes of elevation in the north of Europe and in North America have a date long anterior to the deposition of the tertiary, or even of the

¹ The Student's Elements of Geology. By Sir Charles Lyell, Bart., F.R.S. London, 1871. P. 265.