

there alternations in their appearance ; or, in other words, do the first reappear a second time, and do the others then disappear ? Have these animals and plants all lived in the places where their remains are found, or have they been transported thither from other places ? Do they all live at the present day in some part of the earth, or have they been partially or totally destroyed ? Is there any constant connection between the antiquity of the strata and the resemblance, or non-resemblance, of the fossils contained in them to the animals and plants which now exist ? Is there any connexion, in regard to climate, between the fossils and such living beings as resemble them most ? May it be concluded, that the transportation of these living beings, if such a thing ever happened, has taken place from north to south, or from east to west ; or were they irregularly scattered and mingled together ; and can the epochs of these transportations be determined by the characters which they have impressed upon the strata ?

What can be said regarding the causes of the existing state of the globe, if no reply can be made to these questions,—if there be no sufficient grounds to determine the choice between answering in the affirmative or negative ? It is but too true, that, for a long time, none of these points was satisfactorily determined ; and scarcely even would geologists seem to have had any