

A

DISCOURSE

ON THE

**REVOLUTIONS OF THE SURFACE OF
THE GLOBE,**

AND THE CHANGES THEREBY PRODUCED IN
THE ANIMAL KINGDOM.

IN my work on Fossil Remains, I proposed to determine to what animals those fragments of bones should be assigned which occupy the superficial strata of the globe. It was attempting to traverse the whole of a region of which as yet the first approaches were scarcely known. An antiquary of a new stamp, it was necessary at the same time to restore these monuments of past revolutions, and to detect their meaning: I had to collect and arrange in their original order the component relics; to remodel the creatures to whom the fragments belonged; to reproduce them in their just proportions and with their proper characteristics; and then to compare them with those beings now existing:—an art almost unknown, and which implies a science scarcely before even glanced at,—that of the laws which preside