

tory of this world, and of a succession of events which preceded the birth of the human race?

Astronomers have advanced in science more rapidly than naturalists; and the present state of the theory of the earth somewhat resembles that of the period when certain philosophers believed heaven to be formed of polished freestone, and the moon in size like the Peloponnesus; but, after Anaxagoras, have arisen Copernicus and Kepler, who paved the way for a Newton; and why should not natural history one day boast also of her Newton?

PLAN.

It is the plan and result of my labours on fossil bones, which I particularly intend to lay before you in this discourse: I shall also attempt to trace a rapid sketch of the means employed down to the present time to discover the history of the revolutions of the globe. The facts which I have been enabled to arrive at form certainly but a very small portion of those of which doubtlessly this history of antiquity was composed; but many of them lead to decisive results, and the severe method which I have exercised in deciding on them, gives me reason to believe that they may be received as assured data, and will constitute an epoch in the science. I trust their novelty will be my excuse, if I ask for them the undivided attention of my readers.

My first object will be to show the relation between the history of fossil bones of terrestrial animals, and the theory of the earth, and the motives which in this respect give it a peculiar importance. I shall then unfold the principles of deciding on these bones, or in other words, of ascertaining a