

genus, and distinguishing a species, by a single fragment of bone; an art on the certainty of which rests that of the whole of my labours. I shall slightly notice new species and genera formerly unknown, which I have discovered by the application of these principles, as well as the different kinds of earth which contain them; and, as the difference between these species and those of the present day is confined to certain limits, I shall show that these limits much exceed those which at present distinguish the varieties of the same species. I shall make known how these varieties are limited, either by the influence of time, climate, or domesticity. I shall thus be enabled to conclude, and enable my readers to arrive at a similar conclusion, that there must have been remarkable events to have effected the great differences that I have detected. I shall detail the peculiar modification which my researches have enabled me to introduce into the opinions at present entertained respecting the revolutions of the globe; and finally, I shall examine how far the civil and religious history of nations agree with the results of my observations on the physical history of the earth, and with the probabilities which these observations give rise to concerning the period when human societies found fixed dwellings and fields capable of cultivation; and when, consequently, they received a settled permanent form.

FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE EARTH.

When the traveller passes over those fertile plains where the peaceful waters preserve, by their regular course, an abundant vegetation, and the soil of which, crowded by an extensive population, en-