

system of absolute identity, or pantheism, produces all phenomena or (what it thinks the same thing) all beings by polarization similar to the two electricities; and calling polarization, all opposition, every obstacle, whether we consider its situation, nature, or functions, it seems to oppose God and the world; in the world the sun and planets; in each planet solidity and liquidity, and pursuing this system, changing when needful its figures and allegories, it reaches at last to the minutest details of organized species.(1)

We must allow that we have selected the most opposite examples, and that all geologists have not carried the boldness of their conceptions as far as those we have cited. But amongst those who have advanced with more caution, and have sought arguments beyond physics or ordinary chemistry, how much diversity of opinion and contradiction have arisen!

OPPOSITION OF ALL THESE SYSTEMS.

According to one, all is precipitated successively by crystallization: all was deposited as it now is; but the sea which covered all has retired gradually.(2)

With another the materials of mountains are incessantly lowered and carried away by rivers to the depths of the ocean, there to become heated beneath enormous pressure, and to form layers which the heat that hardens them will one day elevate with violence.(3)

(1) We particularly find this application of pantheism to geology in the works of M. Steffens and M. Oken.

(2) M. Delam  therie admits crystallization as a principal cause in his Geology.

(3) Hutton and Playfair: Illustrations of the Huttonian Theory of the Earth. Edinb. 1802.