

The original fluidity of the globe appears to be indicated by its present spheroidal form ; and in the large planets that compose part of our system, the spheroidal form is more fully displayed, particularly in the planet Jupiter. Now it well deserves attention, that the conditions under which this form was impressed on the earth and planets, cannot recur again by any known causes now in operation, or by any other conceivable cause, except the fiat of the Creator. Thus we are brought, at once, to a commencement of the series of geological changes, which could not have been the result of any secondary causes, that come within the limit of our present experience. About a century ago, it was the fashion among philosophers to explain all the phenomena of nature, even thunder and muscular action, by the operation of known causes ; that is, by the established laws of mechanics, and by chemical fermentation. The discoveries of Franklin and others subsequently proved, that there were more things in heaven and earth than had been dreamed of in past philosophy. It would, indeed, be astonishing if, with our limited powers and ephemeral existence, we have now discovered all the causes that have effected changes in the former condition of the globe.

" One part, one little part, we dimly scan
Through the dark medium of life's feverish dream."

The senses given us by the Creator, as the inlets of knowledge, are sufficient for all the useful purposes of life on our planet ; but it would be extremely rash to infer, that they are adequate to discover or perceive all the properties of matter, or the changes these properties can effect. Some material powers or agents cannot be made perceptible to any of our senses, except by their effects ; such are universal gravitation, magnetism, and crystalline polarity ; and ages had elapsed, before the existence or operation of such powers was even suspected. If we extend our views to the planetary system, we may discover a state of things which implies that the elementary matter of which the planets are composed, is essentially different from terrestrial matter ; and the difference must be such, that it would require an organization and constitution of the inhabitants (if they be inhabited,) altogether so unlike what we are acquainted with, that we are as incapable of forming any distinct idea respecting them, as a blind man is of forming an idea of colours. This may be clearly inferred from the different density of the planets. The density of Saturn is stated by astronomers to be about one tenth that of the earth, or scarcely half the density of pure water. Most of the Saturnian metals and minerals must be lighter than cork wood ; and no fluid like water, can exist any where but in the centre of the planet. But Saturn has an atmosphere and variable clouds or belts ; it must therefore have a fluid on its surface, that performs the functions of water ; yet this fluid must be chemically and essentially different from water, or from any fluid on our earth. The properties of matter, and the