

in other fields. Still, when we remember that geology, as a regular science, is, in every country of Europe, of recent origin; and that, in the United States, most of its early cultivators are still on the stage, we have great reason to take courage and work on.

On the present occasion, we will annex some remarks on the nature of geological evidence, and its consistency with sacred history, making use of some portions of the "*Outline*."

*Statement of the subject.*

By some, this discussion may perhaps be now regarded as obsolete. In the minds of well instructed geologists, this is probably, to a great extent, true. Still, the *Vindiciæ Geologicæ* and the *Reliquiæ Diluvianæ* of Professor Buckland, the *Preliminary Discourse* to Mantell's first volume on the Geology of Sussex, that of Phillips in his *Geology of Yorkshire*, that of Conybeare and Phillips in their *Outline of the Geology of England and Wales*, some of the lectures of Cuvier, and, of late, the *Geology of Dr. Ure*, the *Mosaic and Mineral Geology of Penn* and of Higgins, besides the distinct work of Charbonnier, "*Offrant la concordance des faits historiques avec les faits géologiques*," and various others of earlier date, sufficiently prove, that the subject is not quite at rest in Europe.

In this country, the cultivation of scientific geology is of so recent a date, that many of our most intelligent and well educated people are strangers even to its elements; are unacquainted with its amazing store of facts, and are startled, when any other geological epochs are spoken of than the creation and the deluge, recorded in the pentateuch. But, it is beyond a doubt, that there are innumerable and decisive proofs of successive revolutions, and of a gradual progress in the course of geological events, implying, on the whole, a regular order in the formation of the crust of the planet, interrupted by occasional disorder and convulsion. These events necessarily imply much time, and cannot be referred, exclusively, to any course of diluvial action. It is impossible, for instance, upon any sound principles of philosophical reasoning, to refer to this cause, the extensive, various and interesting class of facts, relating chiefly to the consolidated rocks composed of water-worn ruins and fragments, and to those containing organized remains, in a mineralized state, entombed in the firm strata and mountains. This is a vast field of observation and instruction, and it is less known, even to the greater number of intellectual persons, than almost any department of knowledge. None but geologists study it with diligence, and none who have not made themselves