

TREATISE ON GEOLOGY.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY VIEW OF THE OBJECTS OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCE, AND THE MEANS FOR INVESTIGATING AND INTERPRETING THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE EARTH.

1. OBJECTS OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCE.

THE phenomena of geology are so various and complicated, that hardly any class of writers has left them wholly untouched; and the aspect of this science changes according to the peculiar object of different inquirers. Strabo, accustomed to enlarged views of physical geography, spoke of the existing forms of the surface of a part of Asia Minor, in reference to the ancient revolutions of nature which had occasioned them, and thus appeared to include geology among the tributaries to physical geography. Werner, habituated to minute discrimination of minerals and rocks, regarded the science, whose object it was to propose explanations of these differences, as a branch of mineralogy; while in Hutton's comprehensive mind geology applied itself to