

more distinct; and from the land plants referred by Brongniart to the grauwacke rocks of the Rhine, with those which really belong to them in North Devon, the proof of upraised land is conclusive, though we know not where it was situated.

There is no sufficient evidence to be gathered on the question, whether such uprising might be sudden or gradual; the general conformity of the whole series of rocks of the Cambrian and Silurian systems would not justify an inference that no violent elevation of land had happened elsewhere; especially as some unconformity is supposed to have been observed by Mr. Murchison, between the Plynymmon and Silurian rocks, south of Shrewsbury. There is, however, nothing to contradict the assumption that, till the close of the primary period, nearly all the strata of the British Isles and the continent of Europe, were covered by the sea in which they were formed: indeed, it may be doubted, whether any certain proof can be shown that any part of the European region was subjected to great displacement during the primary period.

It is true that a survey of the porphyries, greenstones, and other igneous rocks, so strangely interlaminated among the clay slates and grauwacke slates of Snowdon, and the middle Cumbrian region, from Black Comb to Ulswater, appears to prove that at certain periods during the formation of these rocks, eruptions of melted rock occurred over a great extent of the oceanic bed; and such we must suppose were accompanied by considerable, if only transient, movements of the solid crust of the globe. Elie de Beaumont has supposed that some of the most considerable displacements of primary strata which are observed in Europe, happened before the completion of the newest of those strata; but it cannot be satisfactorily proved by examples taken from the British Islands. Indeed, every fresh inquiry into the geological dates of particular disturbances of the strata, shows the difficulty of arriving at accurate conclusions on this important subject.

The evidence is sometimes insufficient; in other