

rigorous investigations are needed on the subject, before any physical theory, like Mr. Hopkins's ingenious view, can be safely applied to the data. It is extremely difficult to assure ourselves that the elevations above noticed, as on parallel axes, were really contemporaneous, or even very quickly succeeding, because nothing can be more complete than our ignorance of the duration of past geological periods; and, in order to render the explanation of such parallelism consistent with Mr. Hopkins's demonstrations, the occurrence of parallel elevation must be really synchronous.

The elevations on the continent of Europe of or about this ancient period (anterior to the formation of the carboniferous rocks) are located in Brittany, the Harz, the Hundsrück, the Eifel, the Ardennes.

Whence came the materials of the great mass of deposits which rest upon the primary gneiss and mica schist?

Probably the true answer to this, though we cannot now give adequate proof of it, is that the disintegration of granitic and other igneous rocks, to which, on what seem good grounds, we have already ascribed the origin of gneiss and mica schist, has been the prolific source of all these sedimentary strata. Analysis of the principal rocks of the slaty systems does certainly not contradict this view; which neither those who admit with Leibnitz the first solid covering of the globe to have been a mass of rocks cooled from fusion, or, with Lyell, that strata added above, are melted and reabsorbed into granite below, have any reason to deny.

Moreover, we see daily, on the slopes and at the foot of hills composed of trap rocks, considerable quantities of loosely aggregated sands, which to all appearance, if agitated in water, might be undistinguishable from various secondary or Silurian sandstones. The abundant detritus which surround the basaltic hills of Rowley, the sienites of Mount Sorrel, and the granites of Arran, are in this respect very worthy of attention, and may suggest to those who have the opportunity a train of