

the mind a domination over many parts of the natural world, by teaching it to comprehend the laws by which the Creator has ordained that the actions of material things shall be governed.

2. IMPORTANCE OF GEOLOGY.—In the whole circle of the sciences, there is perhaps none that more strikingly illustrates the force and truth of these remarks, than Geology; none which offers to its votaries rewards so rich, so wondrous and inexhaustible. In the shapeless pebble that we tread upon, in the rude mass of rock or clay, the uninstructed eye would in vain seek for novelty or beauty; like the adventurer in Eastern fable, the inquirer finds the cavern closed to his entrance, and the rock refusing to give up the treasures entombed within its stony sepulchre, till the talisman is obtained that can dissolve the enchantment, and unfold the marvellous secrets which have so long lain hidden.

3. NATURE OF GEOLOGY.—To the mind which is unacquainted with the nature and results of geological inquiries, and which has been led to believe that the globe we inhabit is in the state in which it was first created, and that with the exception of the effects of a general deluge, its surface has undergone no material change, many of the facts to be noticed in the course of these lectures may appear almost incredible, and the inferences deduced from their investigation be considered as the vagaries of the imagination rather