

and unfounded charges brought against geology. On the present occasion, I shall content myself with the following extract from the sermons of the present Bishop of London: "As we are not called upon by Scripture to admit, so neither are we required to deny the supposition, that *the matter without form, and void, out of which this globe was framed, may have consisted of the wrecks and relics of more ancient worlds, created and destroyed by the same Almighty Power which called our world into being, and will one day cause it to pass away.*"\*

Thus, while the Bible reveals to us the moral history and destiny of our race, and instructs us that man and the existing races of living things have been placed but a few thousand years upon the earth, the physical monuments of our globe bear witness to the same truth; and as astronomy unfolds to us innumerable worlds, not spoken of in the sacred records, geology in like manner proves, not by arguments drawn from analogy, but by incontrovertible physical evidence, that there were former conditions of our planet, separated from each other by vast intervals of time, during which this world was teeming with life, ere the creation of man and the animals which are his cotemporaries.

5. EXTENT OF GEOLOGICAL EPOCHS.—At the first step we take in geological inquiries, we are

\* Sermons, by Dr. Charles James Blomfield, Bishop of London. 8vo. 1829.