

struck with the immense periods of time which the phenomena presented to our view must have required for their production, and the incessant changes which appear to have been going on in the natural world : but we must remember that time and change are great only with reference to the faculties of the beings which note them. The insect of a day, contrasting its ephemeral life with that of the flowers on which it rests, would attribute an unchanging permanence to the most evanescent of vegetable forms ; while the flowers, the trees, and the forests would ascribe an endless duration to the soil on which they grow : and thus, uninstructed man, comparing his transient earthly existence with the solid framework of the world he inhabits, deems the hills and mountains around him coeval with the globe itself. But with the enlargement and cultivation of his mental powers, man takes a more just, comprehensive, and enlightened view of the wonderful scheme of creation ; and while in his ignorance he imagined that the duration of the globe was to be measured by his own brief span, and arrogantly deemed himself alone the object of the Almighty's care, and that all things were created for his pleasures and necessities, he now becomes conscious of his own dependence, and entertains more correct ideas of the mercy, wisdom, and goodness of the Creator. And while exercising his high privilege of being alone capable of contemplating and understanding the wonders of the natural world, he