

new forms of organic life on our globe, will be reserved for the concluding lecture.

28. EXISTING GEOLOGICAL CHANGES.—In this division of the subject, it will be my object to explain in a clear and familiar manner some of those physical changes which, unheeded or unappreciated, are taking place around us; but which operating on a large scale, and through a long period of time, are capable of producing effects that materially modify the earth's surface, and give rise to results which, when viewed in the aggregate, fill the uninformed mind with astonishment, and cause it to call up imaginary convulsions and catastrophes to explain the result of some of the most simple operations of nature. As the mere lines that compose the alphabet constitute, when placed in combination, the mighty engine by which the master spirits of our race enlighten and benefit mankind; so natural processes, in themselves apparently inadequate to produce any important effects, become, by their combined and continued operation, an irresistible power, by which the dry land is converted into the bed of the ocean, and the bed of the ocean into dry land; thus fulfilling that universal law of the Creator, which subjects every particle of matter to incessant change.

Before proceeding farther in this inquiry, I would notice an opinion, so generally prevalent that it may possibly be entertained by some present, namely, that the phenomena which will come under our