

of perpetual mutation, that element, which has hitherto been considered as the type of mutability, can alone be regarded as having undergone no change. This idea is finely embodied by Lord Byron in the following sublime apostrophe to the Ocean, with which I will conclude this discourse.

“Thy shores are empires, changed in all save thee—
Assyria, Greece, Rome, Carthage, what are they?
Thy waters wasted them while they were free,
And many a tyrant since; their shores obey
The stranger, slave, or savage; their decay
Has dried up realms to deserts:—not so thou,
Unchangeable, save to thy wild waves' play—
*Time writes no wrinkle on thine azure brow—
Such as Creation's dawn beheld, thou rollest now!*”