

waters preserve, by their regular courses, an abundant vegetation, and the soil of which is crowded by an extensive population, and enriched by flourishing cities, which are never disturbed but by the ravages of war, or the oppression of despotism, he is not inclined to believe that nature has also had her intestine wars, and that the surface of the globe has been overthrown by various revolutions and catastrophes. But his opinions change as he penetrates into that soil at present so peaceful; or as he ascends the hills which bound the plains. His ideas expand, as it were, with the prospect; and so soon as he ascends the more elevated chains, or follows the beds of those torrents which descend from their summits, he begins to comprehend the extent and grandeur of those physical events of ages long past. Or if he examine the quarries on the sides of the hills, or the cliffs which form the boundaries of the ocean, he there sees, in the displacement and contortion of the strata, and in the layers of water-worn materials, teeming with the remains of animals and plants, proofs that those tranquil plains, those smooth unbroken downs, have once been at the bottom of the deep, and have been lifted up from the bosom of the waters; and everywhere he will find evidence that the sea and the land have continually changed their place."

In almost every part of the world, beneath the modern alluvial soil, the nature and character of which were described in the former lecture, exten-