

of years. Yet what is a million, or a million of millions of years, when compared to eternity?" \*

Germany presents us with an interesting series of analogous changes, effected in a later era. The outburst of the now extinct volcanoes of the Rhine, the accumulation of fluviatile silt over the plains, and the subsequent elevation of the whole country, show that these physical mutations were not confined to a single region or period.

In the Andes, the enormous disruptions and elevations of the most ancient as well as modern deposits, teach us, that through a long lapse of ages, the volcanic fires of South America have acted with intense energy; and yet more, that the melting and transmutation of loose materials into compact rocks, the conversion of incoherent strata into solid stone, and even the sublimation of gold and other metals into fissures and veins, are phenomena which have taken place since our seas were peopled by mollusca of existing species. The importance of these extraordinary and interesting facts will be rendered more obvious in a subsequent lecture.

53. CONCLUDING REMARKS.—In conclusion, it will be useful to inquire, even though some repetition may be incurred, what are the legitimate inferences from the facts that have been placed before us, as to the condition of the earth and its inhabitants during the tertiary epoch? Was there, as some have supposed, an essential difference in

\* Geology of Central France.