

That the *sudden* protrusion of such immense masses as the Alps or Pyrenees from the bottom of the sea, must have dislodged a vast body of water, and created a series of waves high and powerful enough to cause transitory, but destructive inundations, over such portions of the adjacent dry land, as were only a few hundred feet above the level of the sea, cannot be doubted; but if the elevations were gradual, no such effects would have been produced.

41. SUCCESSION OF CHANGES IN THE ORGANIC KINGDOM.—I now approach the termination of this argument, and it will be instructive to review the phenomena which have passed before us, in order that we may fully comprehend, and retain a clear conception, of the leading principles and inferences of geology. To condense my remarks as much as possible, I purpose offering—*firstly*, a summary of the changes which have taken place in the animal and vegetable kingdoms; and, *secondly*, in the physical conditions of the earth's surface, during the vast periods which our investigations have embraced; and, *thirdly*, a review of the influence exerted by vital action in the elaboration of the solid materials of the globe. I shall conclude by a few general observations on the highly important and interesting facts, that have formed the subject of our contemplations.

So numerous and varied have been the phenomena examined, that in order to recall the principal events which have marked our progress, I place