

interesting fields of discovery are still unexplored, and how comprehensive and important are the objects that come within the scope of geological investigation.

I will conclude this chapter with the following admirable remarks of Dr. Buckland on the origin and nature of Coal, and the changes it undergoes when rendered subservient to the necessities and luxuries of man.*

“Few persons are aware of the remote and wonderful events in the economy of our planet, and of the complicated applications of human industry and science, which are involved in the production of the coal that supplies with fuel the metropolis of England.

“The most early stage to which we can carry back its origin, was among the swamps and forests of the primeval earth, where it flourished in the form of gigantic *Calamites*, and stately *Lepidodendra*, and *Sigillariæ*. From their native bed, these plants were transported into some adjacent lake, or estuary, or sea. Here they floated on the waters, until they sank saturated to the bottom, and being buried in the detritus of adjacent lands,

* Bd. p 481.