



Centre of the earth.

when a superficial crust of oxides had been formed, the chemical action became more and more languid.

If we indulge in this speculation, which, like all others respecting the primitive state of the earth's nucleus, is arbitrary, we are naturally led to inquire whether any existing causes may have the power of deoxidating the earthy and alkaline compounds formed from time to time by the action of water upon the metallic bases. If so, the previous state of the metallic bases might be restored, a permanent chemical action sustained, and a continual circle of operation kept up. It has been suggested to me, by Mr. Daniell, that we have, in hydrogen, precisely such a deoxidating agent as would be required.