

it requires a century to produce accumulations of this kind even a few inches in thickness.

‘2. But geologists think they have ascertained that the fossiliferous strata in Europe are not less than eight or ten miles in thickness: How immense the period requisite for the production of such vast masses!

‘3. This mass is divided into hundreds of distinct strata, or groups of strata; each group containing peculiar organic remains, and arranged in as much order, one above another, as the drawers of a well-regulated cabinet. Such changes, of not only mineral composition, but of organic remains, show that there must have been more or less of change of circumstances in the waters from which the successive strata and groups were deposited. And such changes must have demanded periods of time of long duration, for they appear to have been, for the most part, extremely slow. We hence derive confirmatory evidence of the views that have been presented concerning the vast periods that have been employed in the production of the fossiliferous strata.

‘4. Another circumstance still further con-