

the third still less, until the latest is frequently horizontal ; having never been disturbed by any internal protruding agency. It is obvious, then, that after the first elevation of the lowest group, there must have been an interval of repose sufficiently long to permit the deposition of the second group, before the second elevation ; then a second period of repose, succeeded by a third elevation ; and so on to the top of the series. Here, then, we have the same evidence of the slow formation of the stratified rocks, as is taught us by their lithological characters, and their organic remains.

‘ It is impossible to exhibit the preceding arguments in a light as striking as they present themselves to the practical observer. Such a person, indeed, needs no laboured argument to satisfy him, that if the stratified rocks were deposited in the manner the work is now going on, immense periods of time were requisite. Even if he admit, what we are not disposed with some geologists to deny, that the causes now in operation did formerly act with greater energy than at present, yet he will still see the necessity of allowing periods of time vastly extended to