

II. GEOLOGY IN RELATION TO THE INORGANIC
WORLD.

The remarks which I am now about to offer will have respect mainly to the inorganic world, and any reference I make to plants and animals will be of an incidental and cursory description.

The earth is not a wild, abandoned to neglect, or controlled by casualties, but is governed on a system, in which the several agents fulfil each some important function, and co-operate in sustaining a collective harmony. In other words, we occupy an abode which can be the work only of a mighty—of a divine Architect; and which teaches us, emphatically, his attributes and our obligations. Let us first notice certain balancing agencies, and then remark on particular substances of much practical interest.

I.—IGNEOUS AND AQUEOUS AGENCIES.

In viewing the globe comprehensively, we are specially struck by the vast effects of Water and of Fire. These seem to be rival or conflicting powers, and yet, with all their apparent