

and obdurately cohesive, there could be no vegetation. A tender plant could not strike its roots into marble or flint. Here, then, are changes which need to be effected, each in its peculiar manner, and which require, at the same time, to be duly proportioned and preserved from excess. Let us look at the processes separately, and in their mutual relation. On the one hand, loose sand or mud is converted into firm and steady rock; and whether this be effected by heat, or compression, or cement, the process is one of law; and if other laws that work well and gain their end bring honour to the lawgiver, why should God only be denied this honouring acknowledgment? But, on the other hand, there must, we have seen, be a neutralising process. That the material of this globe may not be unduly consolidated, there must be a disintegrating agency engaged. Where there is no hammer and no human hands to wield it, there must be other influences at work to break the rock in pieces. Not only must it be pulverised; it must be coated over with soil, and colonised, if I may so express myself, by vegetable and animal races, corresponding with its position, seasons, and