

APPENDIX.

I.

OBJECTS OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCE.

No one has given a clearer and more philosophic exposition of the nature and objects of geological science than Hutton has done in the first chapter of his *Theory of the Earth*. 'We perceive,' he says, 'a fabric erected in wisdom, to obtain a purpose worthy of the power that is apparent in the production of it. The globe of the earth is a habitable world, and on its fitness for this purpose our sense of the wisdom of its formation must depend. To judge of this point, we must keep in view, not only the end, but the means also by which that end is obtained. These are, the form of the whole, the materials of which it is composed, and the several powers which counteract or balance one another in procuring the general result.' These observations contain a very sound exposition of the true character of