

2. If the interior of the earth has a higher temperature than its surface, there is a probability that the ratio was greater when the ancient rocks were in the process of formation than at the present moment; and this is deduced from the abundance of igneous rocks, and the fact that heat is dissipated by radiation. In every age the volcanic force has been active, distorting strata, and ejecting among them igneous products; but it appears to have been most violent during the formation of the older rocks, a deduction that coincides with the supposition of a decreasing superficial temperature as the result of radiation.

But whatever opinions may be entertained after an examination of the earth's crust, it will be universally admitted that the arrangement of the mineral masses is not fortuitous, but the consequence of the same preordaining power that adapted all natural agents to aid in supporting life under pleasurable conditions. The sun may shine upon some worlds with an energy equal or superior to that with which it falls upon the earth, and it may diffuse over them the same vivifying rays; but if they are so constituted as to present a surface inapt to the reception of the life-supporting agency, then the solar rays, so far as these worlds are thus concerned, are useless. The earth is so formed, that it is suited to receive such influence from surrounding causes as is calculated to maintain life. It should ever be remembered that man acknowledges the display of Divine wisdom in the creation, because he perceives that in all parts of the mundane system there is an exact proportion between agents and the substances upon which they act.

CHAPTER IX.

LAND AND WATER.

THE superficies of the earth is estimated at two hundred million British square miles, and consists of land and water. Seven tenths of this surface are occupied by water, and a portion of the remaining three tenths is actually beneath the