

## LECTURE SIXTH.

## GEOLOGY IN ITS BEARINGS ON THE TWO THEOLOGIES.

## PART II.

UP till the introduction of man upon our planet, the humbler creatures, his predecessors, formed but mere figures in its various landscapes, and failed to alter or affect by their works the face of nature. They were conspicuous, not from what they *did*, but from what they *were*. At a very early period reefs of coral, the work of minute zoophytes, whitened the shallows of the ocean, or encircled with pale, ever-broadening frames, solitary islands green with the shrubs and trees of extinct floras ; but, though products of the animal world, they were not built up under the direction of even an instinctive intelligence, but were as entirely the results of a *vegetative* process of mere growth as the forests or reed-brakes of the old Carboniferous savannahs. At a later time an ant-hill might be here and there descried, rearing its squat brown pyramid amid the recesses of some Oolitic forest ; or, in a period still more recent, the dam of the gigantic beaver might be seen extending its minute eye-like circlet of blue amid the windings of some bosky ravine of the Pliocene age ; or existing as a little mound-skirted pond, with the rude half-sub