

prejudice entertained in their favour. We find him thus summing up a general survey of the mountains of the globe : —“Look upon these great ranges : in what confusion do they lie ! They have neither form, nor beauty, nor shape, nor order, no more than the clouds in the air. Then, how barren, how desolate, how naked are they ! How they stand neglected by nature ! Neither the rains can soften them, nor the dews from heaven make them fruitful. I give this short survey of the mountains of the earth *to help to remove that prejudice we are apt to have, or that conceit that the present earth is regularly formed.* . . . There is nothing in nature,” adds this writer, “more shapeless and ill figured than an old rock or a mountain.”

I leave it to my audience to determine how far this depreciatory view,—whether regarded as that of Dr Burnet or of the modern anti-geologist,—agrees with the estimate of the higher minds, or whether it manifests the proper respect for the adorable Being who, in his infinite wisdom, made our world what it is. Let me next show that some of even the abler and more respectable anti-geologists exhibit no very profound veneration for the letter of Scripture, when, instead of bearing, as they think, against the deductions of their opponents, they find it directly opposed to fancies of their own. It is held by not a few among them, that at the Deluge the sea and land changed places. When the waters receded, it was found, they allege, that the old land had become ocean, and the old ocean had become land ; and as there are certain rivers which are described in Scripture as flowing beside Eden, and which, judging by the names given them, still exist, it has become imperative on the assertors of the hypothesis to show that the rivers which now drain tracts of what they hold was then sea, and that fall into seas which they hold were then land, could not by any possibility have formed the boundaries of the old Adamic garden. Let us mark how Mr Granville