

their hiding-places, or the thunder-voice of Deity spoke, as it still speaks, from the terror-striking tempest.

The office of this redundant vegetation was finally fulfilled. The atmosphere was purified of its noxious elements, and higher creatures could live upon the soil. Behold the wisdom and providence of the creative Architect! Carbonic acid was to be removed from the atmosphere, to fit it for animal respiration. A finite mind might have aimed to effect this end alone. Omnipotence was competent to annihilate the poison, or convert it to some solid or liquid form. The infinite Intelligence, however, had so planned the universe that the poison of the quadruped was the food of the plant. The very execution of one portion of the cosmical plan created a use for that which impeded the execution of another. A double object was thus effected. Nor was this all. Should these enormous crops of vegetation grow up and pass away unutilized for the want of an intelligent population to consume and use the fuel? It was not so to be. Though man was not except in the conceptions of the Almighty, man was regarded in the preparations of this age. The far-seeing Planner of the universe stored the carboniferous fuel in repositories where it could never perish, and where it could await the uses of the coming race of man. Nor was this even the end of the providential purposes. In a subsequent age those barren rocks and those beds of coal became covered, first with the basis of a soil, and then with the soil itself; so that man, when he should come upon the stage, might find an inexhaustible mine of fuel, and a foothold for the products of his farm, upon the self-same acres. Another circumstance should also be here remarked. The preservation of these carboniferous stores was effected by the packing down of layer after layer, while beds of clay, and sand, and calcareous sediment were interposed between