

## CHAPTER XXVII.

### METHOD IN THE GROWTH OF CONTINENTS.

HOW impressive the unity of purpose with which Nature has pushed forward the consummation of her vast schemes! Ends have been foreshadowed through almost an eternity of years, while the all-directing Mind has steadily controlled the ministering forces, in the midst of millions of disturbing agencies, till the premeditated work has been accomplished. We witness in the plans of the Infinite Architect the same intelligent cohesion of parts as in a well-laid human scheme; and while the relations of certain events far transcend the scope of our reason, and the perfection of contrivance is immeasurably superior to that of human designs, we understand enough and measure enough to know that a philosophy which is at once human in its method and divine in its comprehension underlies the whole chain of natural events. There is a logical relationship of things established by God and recognizable by man, and the sequences of events are oftentimes so clear that even finite intelligence is able to penetrate the future and unveil plans existing only in the Infinite conception.

This ideal connection of the parts of the Creator's universe is, perhaps, best traced among organized beings, but I propose first to point out its existence in the history of inorganic nature. The infinitely diversified features of the earth's surface have been wrought out by the operation of a few principles working through ages in definite modes. We see that certain rocks bear the evidences of their sedimentary origin. We look about, and find sedimentary ac-