

volcanic products, nor to have been familiar with the characteristic features of the limestones and other calcareous strata in which so large a proportion of fossil organic remains is preserved. He added little to the more luminous conceptions of Steno and Vallisneri. But his influence was not inconsiderable in rousing interest in the themes of which he treated. Nine years after his book appeared, the Carmelite friar Generelli, published an exposition of Moro's views, which he placed in a clearer light than his master had done.

The progress of geological inquiry in Europe during the seventeenth century was marked by a characteristic feature—the development of a series of cosmogonical systems, in which the only common basis of speculation was the effort to account for the origin of our globe and of our universe, in harmony with the teaching of the Church. Science had not advanced far enough to afford any firm basis for speculations of this nature, and consequently the lack of data was in too many cases supplied by wholly imaginary pictures of the history of creation. The systems of cosmogony thus framed, though some of them attained considerable fame in their day, obstructed the progress of inquiry, inasmuch as they diverted attention from the observation of Nature into barren controversy about speculations. In vain did those who had mastered some of the elementary truths about the crust of the earth, oppose and even ridicule these fanciful systems. The cosmogonists were not disconcerted when phenomena were appealed to that contradicted their theories, for they usually never