

acid of the phosphate of lime; and then, silicious earth, or lime in composition with iron, or iron pyrites, may by solution and infiltration fill the interstices of the original earthy matter of the bone; thus it is converted into stone, and is as permanent as the rock which contains it. It retains the form, though not the internal structure of bone; and that form, in consequence of the perfect system which we have hinted at, becomes a proof of revolutions the most extraordinary. The mind of the enquirer is carried back, not merely to the contemplation of animal structure, but by inference, from the system of animal organization to the structure of the globe itself.

The remains of marine animals are found in the highest mountains of the old and new world, and great bones are discovered on turning up the surface of our fields; and in the beds of rivers; and not in the loose soil only, but under the solid limestone rock. The bones thus exposed, become naturally a subject of intense interest, and are unexpectedly connected with the enquiry in which we are engaged. Among other important conclusions they lead to this—that there is not only a scheme or system of animal structure pervading all the classes of animals which inhabit the earth, but that the principle of this great plan of creation was in operation, and governed the formation of those