

The Atheistical Theory assuming the gratuitous postulate of the eternity of matter and motion, would represent the question thus. All matter, it would contend, must of necessity have assumed some form or other, and therefore may *fortuitously* have settled into any of those under which it actually appears. Now, on this hypothesis, we ought to find all kinds of substances presented occasionally under an infinite number of external forms, and combined in endless varieties of indefinite proportions; but observation has shewn that crystalline mineral bodies occur under a fixed and limited number of external forms called *secondary*, and that these are constructed on a series of more simple *primary* forms, which are demonstrable by cleavage and mechanical division, without chemical analysis: the *integrant* molecules* of these primary forms of crystals are

pear, than he might otherwise have done, for the sake of showing that no part of them has been suggested by any recent publications; and that the views here taken have not originated in express considerations called forth by the occasion of the present Treatise, but are the natural result of ordinary serious attention to the phenomena of Geology and Mineralogy, viewed in their conjoint relations to one another, and of enquiry pursued a few steps further beyond the facts towards the causes in which they originated.

* Ce que j'ai dit de la forme deviendra encore plus évident, si, en pénétrant dans le mecanisme intime de la structure, on conçoit tous ces cristaux comme des assemblages de molécules intégrantes parfaitement semblables par leurs formes, et subordonnées, à un arrangement régulier. Ainsi, au lieu qu'une