

PREFACE.

THREE important subjects of enquiry in Natural Theology come under consideration in the present Treatise.

The first regards the inorganic Elements of the Mineral Kingdom, and the actual dispositions of the Materials of the Earth : many of these, although produced or modified by the agency of violent and disturbing forces, afford abundant proofs of wise and provident Intention, in their adaptations to the uses of the Vegetable and Animal Kingdoms, and especially to the condition of Man.

The second relates to Theories which have been entertained respecting the Origin of the World ; and the derivation of existing systems of organic Life, by an eternal succession, from preceding individuals of the same species ; or by gradual transmutation of one species into another. I have endeavoured to show, that to all these Theories the phenomena of Geology are decidedly opposed.

The third extends into the Organic Remains of a former World the same kind of investigation, which Paley has pursued with