

less exclusive observation, using the terms, "*towards* the centre," which is not inconsistent with a cavity.

But after all this is matter of conjecture built upon the attraction of the earth, and cannot be ascertained by actual examination; as far as that has been carried, it does not appear that in the present state of our globe the strata always lie exactly in the order of their densities; in the original earth probably they did. But now we tread upon the ruins of a world that has been almost destroyed and reformed. "The structure of the globe," observes an eminent geographer, "presents in all its parts the features of a grand ruin; the confusion and overthrow of most of its strata, the irregular succession of those which seem to remain in their original situations, the wonderful variety which the direction of the veins and the forms of the caverns display, the immense heaps of confused and broken substances, the transportation of enormous blocks to a great distance from the mountains of which they appear to have formed a part,"\*—do not lead us, as he would intimate, "to periods far anterior to the existence of the human race," but to a mighty catastrophe by which the whole structure of our globe has been dislocated, and its ancient strata broken up, and separated by the intervention of new ones formed of animal and vegetable remains.

When the Almighty formed our globe from the original chaos, and projecting it into space bade it perform its diurnal and annual revolutions, he first weighed it in his balance, and moulded it so as it might answer to the action of those mighty powers by whose constant impulse or impact those revolutions were to be maintained; and if a central void was necessary he wanted not the means to produce and maintain it. When the power called attraction tended to drive all to the centre, the repellant principle might be so

\* Malte-Brun. Syst. of Geogr. L. i. 192.