

seems proved by the remains of marine animals, especially sea-urchins, which from this circumstance the common people know by the name of *chalk-eggs*, and which, we learn from Captain Beechey, abound on the submerged ledges of some coral islands; and at the same period, it is surely no improbable supposition, under the directing hand of Him who willed to destroy the earth by the waters of a flood, and at the same time determined, according to the good pleasure of his will, the precise mode of its renovation, that in the course of the rise, prevalence, or subsidence of the mighty waters, which, for the principal part of a year, acted with irresistible force upon the earth, considerable additions might be made from the debris of the earth's disrupted crust, to the reefs of coral that were left unsubverted, and so many islands be formed or enlarged.

When the Creator formed the coral animals, what foresight, as well as power and wisdom, did he manifest! That a minute pouch of animated matter, with no other organs than a few tentacles surrounding its mouth, should be fitted to secrete calcareous particles from food collected by it, to transpire or regurgitate them so as to construct for itself a limestone house, that it should be empowered perpetually to send forth germs that could also act the same part; and thus in process of time, by their combined efforts, build up, in the midst of the fluctuating ocean, not merely insignificant islets, but whole groups of islands, which in due time are rendered fit for the habitation of man himself, and do in fact become his permanent abode—but not only this, but should so order all other circumstances connected with this procedure, as, for instance, the action of the waves and winds upon this nascent little world, that when the animal has built up to that point, which its nature, for it cannot exist when removed from the influence of its native element, enables it to attain, should take up the wonderful work