

illustrate principles, rather than to enumerate particulars. When the principles of a cumulative argument are understood, the details are readily supplied by the reader.

First. On taking a general and collective review of the facts brought forward in the preceding chapters, the circumstances calculated to strike our attention in the first place, are the wonderful coincidence between the priority of existence, and the universal prevalence, of the primordial agents and elements of nature, on the one hand ; and on the other, the beautiful adaptation of the agents and elements of a later, and more subordinate character to these primordial principles ; so that, when the whole are taken together, they constitute one harmonious and connected series, in which all the various parts are mutually adapted, and dependent. In the following chapters, we shall have occasion to notice many of the more important of these subordinate arrangements ; at present, we shall chiefly confine ourselves to a general review of what has been already stated.

We are told by the inspired historian, that after matter had been created, and endowed with motion, the next Almighty fiat was, “ let there be light ;” and if we suppose this fiat, to have included the other imponderable forms of matter, heat, &c. ; how entirely do the whole phenomena of nature accord with the sacred