

earth to which they have access; and these conclusions are of the most important kind. In particular, by demonstrating the existence of successive adaptations, to successive and different states of equilibrium; they place the argument of design in a new light, and add, in no small degree, to its force. This part of the subject, however, belongs to the geologist, to whom, for the present, we shall leave it.

Fourthly. The argument of design, as connected with the subject of equilibrium above treated of, may be considered yet in another point of view. In this state of equilibrium we have observed, that the properties of bodies, as they actually exist around us, are all so subdued and passive in their character, that no one predominates over, or excludes the others. Now, when we reflect that almost all these bodies are *compounds*; and when we compare the properties of these compounds, with the properties of the elements composing them; it is impossible not to infer, that the properties of the compounds, rather than those of the elements, were,

elementary kind; and that in virtue of the general laws in operation, these new elements have subsequently combined to form series of new arrangements? Of course, this supposition is intended to apply only to the *means* adopted by the Deity to effect his purpose. The formation, and selection of these new elements, must in all instances, be supposed to result immediately from His will and agency.