

even yet seems to be constantly going on ; and that the temperature of the surface is thus somewhat higher, than it would be, if such a central heat did not exist ; or than if the temperature of the surface of the earth depended only, upon the action of the sun. We are thus brought to the proper commencement of this treatise on Meteorology ; viz. the consideration of the *present state* of the earth's temperature, as liable to be influenced by the presence or absence of the sun, the great source of heat and of life to our system.

Before proceeding, we may remark, that the details of the subject we have now concluded, fall entirely within the province of the geologist. To him it belongs, as we have already said, not only to trace the wonderful changes which our globe has undergone in arriving at its present condition ; but to point out, the beautiful adaptations of organic life, and structure, to the existing circumstances of its various epochs. Considered in this point of view, geology is a subject of the highest interest and importance ; and, to use the words of an eminent Professor, with which we shall finish this chapter, “ lends a great and unexpected aid to the doctrine of final causes ; for it has not merely added to the cumulative argument, by the supply of new and striking instances of