

mechanical structure adjusted to a purpose, and that purpose accomplished; but it has also proved, that the same pervading active principle manifesting its power in our times, has also manifested its power in times long anterior to the records of our existence.

“But, after all,” continues our author, “some men, seeing nothing but uniformity and continuity in the works of nature, have still contended (with, what I think, a mistaken zeal for the honour of sacred truth) that the argument from final causes proves nothing more than a quiescent intelligence. I feel not the force of this objection. In geology, however, we can meet it by another direct argument; for we not only find in our formations organs mechanically constructed, but at different epochs in the history of the earth, we have great changes of external conditions, and corresponding changes of organic structure; and all this, without the shadow of a proof, that one system of things graduates into, or is the necessary and efficient cause, of the other. Yet in all these instances of change, the organs, as far as we can comprehend their use, are exactly those which were best suited to the functions of the being. Hence we not only show intelligence contriving means adapted to an end, but, at successive times and periods, contriving a change of mechanism