

## INTRODUCTION.\*

§ 1. *Proposal of the subject, and observations on the simplicity of the chemical and mineralogical constitution of rock formations*—§ 2. *Regular order of succession in the mineral masses.*—§ 3. *Phænomena of their disposition in strata.*—§ 4. *Methodical arrangement of the rocks into formations and general classes.*—§ 5. *Occurrence of animal and vegetable remains imbedded in the strata and phænomena of this distribution.*—§ 6. *Occurrence of beds derived from the debris of older rocks among those more recent.*—§ 7. *Considerations on the change of level indicated by preceding phænomena, and inductive enumeration of the possible hypotheses on that subject.*—§ 8. *Phænomena and origin of trap rock, with a sketch of the volcanic question.*—§ 9. *Wernerian theory on some of the above points compared with the actual phænomena.*—§ 10. *Phænomena of vallies, with an explanation of the theory of denudation.*—§ 11. *Phænomena of diluvial gravel.*—§ 12. *Changes still carried on by existing causes.*—§ 13. *Sketch of the progress of Geology and the physical allusions of the inspired writings.*

SINCE the present volume, offering itself only in the character of an elementary work, may very probably find its way into the hands of many who as yet possess but an imperfect and vague idea of the general objects of the science to which it relates, some introductory notice of the scope and design of the enquiries which it is here proposed to prosecute, appears to be requisite; and in order to supply this deficiency, the following preliminary remarks have been thrown together. In thus endeavouring to sketch the general bearings of the phænomena which it is the business of every geological treatise to illustrate, the most simple and natural method will be to trace those phænomena in the order in which they would present themselves to the consideration of an intelligent observer who should

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