

In the above slight and hasty sketch of the progress of this study, we have been obliged to pass over in silence many less important sources of information ; such are the class of writers who have given local natural histories ; for instance Plott, Moreton, Borlase, Price, &c. and writers of general topography, many of whom have contributed in some degree to the accumulation of materials for English Geology. Among these Stukeley the antiquary, the father of our home tourists, seems to have been intent on pursuing Lister's project of a mineral map, since he refers in his index to the particulars he had collected as intended to facilitate such a design. We have also omitted Hutchinson and his school of physico-theological writers, who have however collected many important observations ; we have already quoted a striking passage from Catcott, one of this school, on the subject of denudation. The continental writers on this subject of the present day, we have not endeavoured to include ; for it would be impossible in so limited a compass to give an adequate idea of the labours and merits of Cuvier, Brongniart, Daubuisson, Humboldt, Von Buch, Brocchi, and a long train of other observers who have illustrated this science in France, Germany, and Italy : the Anglo American States have also produced a very able geological observer, Mr. Maclure.

The necessity of these and other omissions we the less regret, as it is known that the whole subject is at present employing the pen of a writer who has shewn his competency for the task by an able article connected with it in the Edinburgh Review for 1818, to which (as will have been perceived) the present sketch is largely indebted.

And here we cannot conclude this rapid sketch of the general bearings of geological science, without some allusion (imperfect as from our limits it must necessarily be) to those highest interests which the eager attacks of an half-informed scepticism, and sometimes also the injudicious defences of those, whose sincerity of intention ill supplied the want of a precise acquaintance with the phænomena under consideration, have seemed to involve in the discussions of this branch of physics. With respect to the former class, the characteristic to which we have just alluded, their impatience, namely, to avail themselves of the immature results of an imperfect knowledge, opposed as it is in every respect to that persevering and reflective spirit of enquiry which marks genuine philosophy, and can alone lead to the ultimate discovery of truth, must create a reasonable suspicion of their opinions ; for no sooner has any new discovery, whatever might have been its subject, occurred (whether it was a fragment of Indian chronology, or