

ingly exhibited in the animal and vegetable creation. And the answer will be found in the affirmative. Such proofs, though, from the nature of the subject, less obvious than in the two former instances, are nevertheless plainly discernible and capable of demonstration. To enter at large into those proofs would require more ample space than can now be devoted to it, and presupposes a knowledge of the subject of which we are but beginning to treat ; but some few may briefly be alluded to.

“ A great majority of the strata having been formed under water, and from materials evidently in such a state as to subject their arrangement to the operation of the laws of gravitation ; had no disturbing forces interposed, they must have formed layers almost regularly horizontal, and therefore investing in concentric coats the nucleus of the earth. But the actual position of these beds is generally more or less inclined to the horizontal plane, though often under an angle almost imperceptible. By this arrangement many strata affording numerous varieties of mineral productions are made to emerge in succession on the surface of the earth ; whereas the inferior must have been buried for ever beneath the highest, had their position been strictly horizontal ; and in such case we should have wanted that variety of useful minerals almost indispensable to the existence of man in a state of civil society, which this succession of different strata now presents to us.

“ In the whole machinery also of springs and rivers, and the apparatus that is kept in action for their duration, through the instrumentality of a system of curiously constructed hills and valleys, receiving their supply *occasionally* from the rains of heaven, and treasuring up in their everlasting storehouses to be dispensed *perpetually* by thousands of never-failing fountains ; we see a provision not less striking or less important. So also in the adjustment of the relative quantities of sea and land in such due proportions as to supply the earth by constant evaporation, without diminishing the waters of the ocean ; and in the appointment of the atmosphere to be the vehicle of this wonderful and unceasing circulation ; in thus separating these waters from their native salt, (which, though of the highest utility to preserve the purity of the sea, renders them unfit for the support of terrestrial animals or vegetables,) and transmitting them in genial showers to scatter fertility over the earth, and maintain the never-failing reservoirs of those springs and rivers, by which it is again returned to mix with its parent ocean : in all these we find such undeniable proofs of a nicely balanced adaptation of means to ends, of wise foresight and benevolent intention and infinite power, that he must be blind