

habitants. When our minds become thus familiarised with the idea of a beginning and first creation of the beings we see around us, the proofs of design, which the structure of those beings affords, carry with them a more forcible conviction of an intelligent Creator, and the hypothesis of an eternal succession of causes is thus at once removed. We argue thus—it is demonstrable from Geology that there was a period when no organic beings had existence : these organic beings must therefore have had a beginning subsequently to this period ; and where is that beginning to be found, but in the will and *fiat* of an intelligent and all-wise Creator ?

“ With what acuteness of argument, and what obstinacy of perseverance, the extraordinary notion of an eternal succession was maintained in ancient times, even by some of the greatest philosophers, it is quite unnecessary here to state : and if some writers on Geology in later times have professed to see in the earth nothing but the marks of an infinite series of revolutions, without the traces of a beginning ; it will be quite sufficient to answer, that such views are confined to those writers who have presumed to compose theories of the earth, in the infancy of the science, before a sufficient number of facts had been collected ; and that, if possible, they are still more at variance with the conclusions of Geology, (as a science founded on observation,) than they are with those of Theology.”

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We have seen then that the evidences of Natural Religion are still further confirmed by the discoveries of Geology, as indeed could not fail to be the case ; for every effort that has carried forward the land-marks of human knowledge, has at the same time disclosed to our view a widening range of this proof, and such is its cumulative nature that it regularly grows with the growth and strengthens with the strength of true science. Let us next enquire in what manner the observations of Geology bear upon the few physical facts recorded in the writings which we receive as inspired.

Two only points can be in any manner implicated in the discussions of Geology.

- I. The Noachian Deluge.
- II. The Antiquity of the Earth.

With regard to the first of these points, Geology, far from affording the slightest ground to question the truth of the Mosaic record, brings to its support (if that which rests securely on its more appropriate ground—a solid and immoveable foun-