

dry, and has formed on it the countries now inhabited; that since the revolution, those few individuals whom it spared have been spread and propagated over the lands newly left dry, and consequently it is only since this epoch that our societies have assumed a progressive march, have formed establishments, raised monuments, collected natural facts, and combined scientific systems.

But the countries now inhabited, and which the last revolution left dry, had been before inhabited, if not by mankind, at least by land animals; consequently, one preceding revolution, at least, had overwhelmed them with water; and if we may judge by the different orders of animals whose remains we find therein, they had, perhaps, undergone two or three irruptions of the sea.

IDEAS OF RESEARCHES TO BE STILL FARTHER MADE IN GEOLOGY.

These are the alternatives which now appear to me to form the most important geologic problem which requires solving, or rather, properly defining, or accurately limiting; for, to solve it entirely, it would be requisite to discover the cause of these events, an undertaking of a very different nature.

I repeat, we see very clearly what is passing on the surface of the continents in their present state; we have very fairly ascertained the uniform march and regular succession of the primitive formations, but the study of secondary formations has scarcely yet commenced; that wonderful series of unknown zoophytes, and marine mollusca, followed by reptiles and fresh-water fish equally unknown, and these in their turn replaced by zoophytes and mollusca, more