

contain much water of crystallization may present a serious difficulty, but perhaps pressure may have retained the water and as the parts of the mineral concreted, in cooling, the molecules of water may have taken their place in the regular solid. Still we can see no reason for excluding water and other dissolving agents, acting with intense energy under vast pressure and at the heat of even high ignition, from playing a very important part in crystallization.

If we give granite to igneous fusion it is hardly possible to avoid admitting the conjoined action of water on the crystallized slaty rocks that usually cover it.

*Nature and Application of the Argument.*

It is we trust obvious that we have been occupied, not in the superfluous labor, of giving a complete system, but in selecting from the great store house of nature, a few facts taken from the principal geological classes and epochs, to evince that our planet, before it was inhabited by man, was subjected to a long course of formation and arrangement, the object of which evidently was, to fit it for the reception, first of plants and animals, and finally of the human race.

In that remote period of which he who recorded the fact probably knew not the date :—*In the beginning* God created the heavens and the earth, and established the physical laws, the ordinances of heaven, by which the material world was to be governed.

The earliest condition of the surface of the planet, appears to have been that of a dark abyss of waters of unknown depth and continuance, which repressed the deep seated forces of internal fires.

The structure of the crust of the planet affords decisive evidence of a long series of events, in relation both to the formation of rocks, and to the creation and succession of organized bodies, of which many of them contain such astonishing quantities.

Time and order of time ; event, succession and revolution are plainly recorded in the earth ; and sacred history expressly states that the events involved both time and order of time.

Geology cannot decide on the amount of time, but it assures us that there was enough to cover all the events connected with the formation of the mineral masses, and with the succession of the generations of living beings, whose remains are found preserved in the strata.

It is obvious that ages must have passed, while the various geological events, which are recorded in the structure of the earth, were happening, and particularly while the innumerable organic forms,