

of the planet, entirely out of its own ruins, a supposition which is inconsistent with the state of facts.

2. *The present crust of the planet has been regularly formed between the first creation "in the beginning,"* and the commencement of the first day.*

It appears to be admitted by critics, that the period alluded to in the first verse of Genesis, "in the beginning," is not necessarily connected with the first day. It may therefore be regarded as standing by itself, and as it is not limited, it admits of any extension backward in time which the facts may require.†

By asserting that there was a beginning, it is declared that the world is not eternal, and the declaration that God made the heavens and the earth, is a bar, equally, against atheism and materialism. The world was, therefore, made *in time* by the omnipotent Creator.

The creation of the planet was no doubt instantaneous, as regards the materials, but the arrangement, at least of the crust, was gradual. As a subject either of moral or physical contemplation, we can say nothing better, than that it was the good pleasure of God that this world should be called into existence; but, it was also his pleasure, that the arrangement, by which it was to become a fit habitation for man, should be progressive.

This is in strict analogy with the regular course of things in the physical, moral and intellectual world. Every thing, except God, has a beginning, and every thing else is progressive. The human mind,

* "Of old, hast thou laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands." Ps. cii. 25. "And thou, Lord, *in the beginning*, hast laid the foundation of the earth." Heb. i. 10.

† "This statement appears to be entirely distinct from all that follows."—*W. M. Higgins, F. G. S.; the Mosaic and Mineral Geologies: London, 1833.*

"In this view I find no difficulties, either as a divine or a philosopher."—*Private correspondence of the Editor with an eminent biblical critic and divine.*

Dr. Chalmers says—"Does Moses ever say, that when God created the heavens and the earth, he did more, at the time alluded to, than transform them out of previously existing materials? Or does he ever say, that there was not an interval of many ages betwixt the first act of creation, described in the first verse of the book of Genesis, and said to have been performed in the beginning, and those more detailed operations, the account of which commences at the second verse, and which are described to us as having been performed in so many days? Or, finally, does he ever make us understand, that the generations of man went further than to fix the antiquity of the species, and of consequence that they left the antiquity of the globe a free subject for the speculations of philosophers."—*Evid. Christ. Rev. in Edin. Encyc.*