

the bodily powers, the inception and growth of the animal and vegetable races, the seasons, seed time and harvest, science and arts, wealth, civilization, national power and character, and a thousand things more, evince, that progression is stamped upon every thing, and that nothing reaches its perfection by a single leap.

The gradual preparation of this planet for its ultimate destination, presents therefore no anomaly, and need not excite our surprise.

It is of no importance to us, whether our home was in a course of preparation, during days or ages, for the moral dispensations of God to man could not begin until his creation.

The abyss of waters which existed at an early unknown period, before the time of the final arrangement of the surface, which preceded the creation of man, and continued, we may suppose, for an unlimited time, is just such a state of things, in coincidence with the operation of internal fire, as is demanded for the formation of the central rocks, and for their elevation, as far as facts may justify us in supposing that it took place so early.

The supposition now before us is equally consistent with both the igneous and the aqueous theory of the earth; and indeed it would be impossible to account for the appearance of things, without the conjoined agency of internal fire, and of an incumbent ocean; the latter repressing the expansive and explosive power of the former, causing its heat greatly to accumulate, even to the fusion of the most refractory materials; preventing the escape of gaseous matter, as, for instance, of carbonic acid gas from the limestones, and by its pressure and slow cooling, from the small conducting power of water, preventing melted rocks from assuming the appearance of volcanic cinders, slags, scoriæ, and other inflated masses.

The incumbent ocean is therefore indispensable to the correct deductions of the theoretical geologist, even if he believe in the igneous origin of the primitive rocks: still more, if he attribute these rocks to dissolving agencies.

With these views, then, the historical record happily agrees, and geology has no quarrel with the sacred history.

During the period when this dark abyss of waters prevailed, the earth was without form, and void, or better, as Hebricians say—"the earth was invisible and unfurnished;" we may presume that then the early operations of geological formation and arrangement began, by producing the fundamental rocks, and thus providing materials for all the derivative strata, which, in the course of their consolidation, were destined to embosom such an endless diversity of extraneous contents.