

which spread it out upon the ocean-bed. There the spoils of the land are added to the defunct shells and skeletons of marine life, the astonishing amount of the works of men, and the millions of human skeletons which, through more than fifty centuries, have been swallowed up in the watery deep. At the time which inviolable justice has fixed, "the sea shall give up her dead." Can it be thought improbable that the operations which are now in progress, in the dark abyss, and at its greatest depths, are subservient to the righteous proceedings of that day, the finishing of the mystery of God as to this one portion of his ways ;—the termination of man's existence as an animal-species upon earth, but his resurrection to an immortal life, a new sphere of being, the possession of a more exquisite organization, which, in a manner inconceivable to our present faculties, will be incomparably more effective for the highest purposes of mind than that which we now possess?—We trace the monuments of change to early and still earlier conditions, carrying us back to the grand simplicity of elementary creation : and we are permitted to contemplate the all-surrounding proofs that our globe only waits the will of the Almighty Being, to develope its mechanical and chemical forces ; and, if that will have so ordained, "the heavens," the atmospheric constitution, "shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat ; the earth also, and the works that are therein shall be burned up."*

The design of geological studies is to acquire a satisfactory knowledge of the substances (airs, water, earth, stones, and metals,) which in different combinations and arrangements, form the accessible parts of the planet assigned by the Almighty Creator for our present dwelling-