

his catastrophes and his epochs, leaves the popular opinion nearly as far behind him, as they who trace our present continents upward through an indefinite series of ancestors, and assign many millions of years to the existence of each generation.”* This eloquent writer cannot have intended to signify “ancestors” and “generations” of the human kind, nor of the existing species of animals; for this would involve a groundless imputation. He probably used these words, without adverting to their proper meaning, and designing only to express animated creatures and the succession of different families and genera.

* Edinburgh Christian Instructor, April, 1814.