

## LECTURE II.

DEUT. XXXIII. 13, 15, 16. *Blessed of the Lord be his land ; for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath,—and for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills, and for the precious things of the earth and the fulness thereof.*

THIS beautiful passage, from the dying benedictions of Moses, the faithful servant of God, is not recited from any supposition that it has an immediate reference to the subjects of this lecture. It is a sublime thanksgiving to the Most High, acknowledging the eminent advantages which he had prepared for the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, in the approaching partition of Palestine. Their allotment had a moderate line of sea-coast, on which was Joppa, at that time and long after a good port ; an ample portion of rich land for pasture and cultivation ; and numerous mountains supplying streams of water, and containing excellent stone and lime for building, with iron and copper, in the northern mountains. Thus, the description may be properly adduced as comprehending, along with other objects, the class of providential blessings which belonged to the mineral kingdom, and which are of so great importance to the wealth and prosperity of a nation. That class of blessings, God has conferred upon our country in a far superior degree : and it certainly becomes us to understand our mercies and be grateful for them. Geological knowledge, if pursued in a right state of mind, will much assist us in this duty.

All observation and every experiment prove, that the sensible world around us is in a state of incessant motion