

supposition exalts the more highly our view of the divine perfections; the knowledge, wisdom, and power, to which complication and simplicity, remoteness and nearness, an atomic point and all space,—are the same. “GOD IS A SPIRIT.—Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith JEHOVAH.—HE IS ALL and in all.—In HIM we live, and move, and have our being.”

Of this dependent universe, our planet is a part so small that no arithmetician can assign a fraction low enough to express its proportion to the whole. God has appointed it for our habitation, till the great change of death: and, on every account, natural and moral, it is to us full of interest. Its constitution, the alterations of structure and arrangement which are incessantly taking place upon it and within it, its living inhabitants, and those races of creatures once possessing vegetable or animal life, but which have ceased to live,—set before us subjects inexhaustible for examination and delight.

The object of this lecture is not to lay down a digest of geological facts. Such a pretension would be absurd, unless we could work upon a larger scale. But I may well feel assured that my friends will not do themselves so much injustice, as would be the neglect of studying diligently some of the best works, and which may easily be obtained.* I have only to present, as concisely as I

* If, for the sake of my younger friends, I mention the works which I can with most satisfaction recommend, omissions must not be understood as intimating any disparagement. Lyell's *Elements*, and his earlier and larger work, the *Principles of Geology*, four volumes; Prof. Phillips's *Guide to Geology*, his *Treatises in the Edinburgh Encyclopædia* and Lardner's *Cyclopædia*, two volumes, both works published separately, and that in the *Encyclopædia Metropolitana*; his *Yorkshire Geology*, two quarto volumes; his *Geological Map of the British Isles*; Conybeare and William Phillips's *Outlines of the Geology of England and Wales*; a work, to our great regret, not yet finished, and of which a revised edition and the completion are earnestly looked for; Buckland's *Bridgewater Treatise*, two volumes; De la Beche's *Researches*, his *Manual*, and his