

It may be objected that our data are insufficient ; and that, unless we possessed a knowledge of the terrene matter, whatever it may be, and into whatsoever formations it may be subdivided, through the whole interior and under every part of the superficial circumference to the centre, we are not in a capacity to draw safe conclusions, concerning the contained materials, their composition, their arrangement, their relations to each other, and any rationally conceived mode in which subordinate causes may have operated, initially, successively, or concurrently, in the production of the matter of our globe.

The objection would be weighty, if there were reason to suppose that the body of the globe, beyond the boundary-line of our inspections, were similar to the part already explored. If, for example, the objector could say to us, "You have arrived at no term. You cannot show us the indications of a cessation of the materials which you say have been deposited, and which form the portion through which you have passed. The series may be repeated, possibly again and again : or there may be another series, of entirely different composition, such as precipitates from suspension in water, or products of chemical action, or results of igneous fusion ; and so on indefinitely. Unless you had penetrated through all these, you can draw no conclusion on which dependence can be placed."

But the objector cannot say this. He would be guilty of a false assumption. The true state of the facts is the very contrary to what he supposes. We are acquainted certainly, I might almost say perfectly, with the character and succession of the deposited substances which, laid upon each other, compose the crust of our globe ; and we know the totally different constitution of the materials which lie underneath. We see demonstrated, with satisfactory clearness, the distinct character and the opposite