

or animal remains which are imbedded in it. Now the new body of deposits may be identical over the entire extent first supposed. It is manifest, therefore, that in one part the last stratum will rest upon the foregoing one, which had been long elevated and exposed to causes of change; and thus the surfaces at the junction will be irregular: but, upon the portion which had not been raised out of the waters, or which had sunk, one stratum or several have been deposited throughout the intervening period, and they will probably rest conformably, each upon that below it, that is, their bounding surfaces will correspond to each other in lines nearly parallel. The whole area comes afterwards to be elevated; or only some parts of it. One part, therefore, possesses a series of strata which are not found in the other; and that other, if studied alone, might suggest the idea that two formations naturally came together, or that the upper always followed the lower at once, while yet between them in reality some others have intervened.

These operations of deposition, elevation, subsidence, and elevation again, in application to separate districts, and in different periods through an indefinite duration,—have been repeated a number of times; each repetition producing breaks, fissures, and manifold displacings, erections, and inclinations, of the more hard and consequently frangible strata; and bendings, even to a complete overturning, or contortion backwards of the softer and more coherent ones. The evidence of elevation and that of subsidence occur frequently within moderate geographical limits; so that two districts with their intervening ground may be familiarly compared to a long board, balanced on a fulcrum: when one end sinks the other rises.

The miscellaneous result might seem to baffle all attempts at arrangement and safe induction: but the labours