

almighty power of its Creator, *within the period of the six days* laid down in the first portion of the Book of Genesis: chap. i. throughout, and ii. 1—3, where the editorial division should have been made, as that portion is evidently a connected and complete narrative. The same conclusion is also drawn from the language of the fourth commandment: “In six days, the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is.” Exod. xx. 11.

To this position the discoveries of geological science are directly opposed. Excepting the higher parts of great mountains, which at widely different epochs have been upheaved, and made to elevate and pierce the stratified masses which once lay over them, there is scarcely a spot on the earth's surface which has not been many times in succession the bottom of a sea, and a portion of dry land. In the majority of cases, it is shown, by physical evidences of the most decisive kind, that each of those successive conditions was of extremely long duration; a duration which it would be presumptuous to put into any estimate of years or centuries; for any alteration of which vestiges occur in the zoological state and the mineral constitution of the earth's present surface, furnishes no analogy, with regard to the nature and continuance of causes, that approaches in greatness of character to those changes whose evidences are discernible in almost any two contiguous strata. It is an inevitable inference, unless we are disposed to abandon the principles of fair reasoning, that each one of such changes in organic life did not take place till after the next preceding condition of the earth had continued through a duration, compared with which six thousand years appear an inconsiderable fraction of time. Among other facts, it is to be observed that the instances referred to often involve an increase of temperature to a great amount. For example, it is proved, by the clearest evidence of vegetable remains, that, in what