

“that Almighty God may, by the mere *fiat* of his power, have intentionally brought every rock and stratum, every fossil leaf and shell and bone, into its present form and condition.”

This kind of argument has been repeatedly brought forwards, even in modern times: but surely those who use it have not considered what havoc they are making; for, if it had any strength at all, it would fearfully weaken the proof for the first truth of religion, from the doctrine of sufficient causes. We find the dead parts of animals, with the marks of muscular attachment, the shelly, or crustaceous, or bony structure, the condyles, the receiving hollows, the grooves and port-holes for the passage of nerves and blood-vessels, the teeth with their sockets in all the variety of the most exquisitely appropriate formation, even the provisions and modes of nutrition:—and it is seriously said, that we may sit down with the conclusion that these objects were never the parts of any living creature, but have existed from the beginning, just as we now find them!—Shall we throw such an advantage as this into the hands of the atheist?—

This respected clergyman has also other suppositions, and certain theories of his own, by which he believes that all the geological appearances may be accounted for, within the limits of time which he holds it an impiety to exceed.

One of these is, to bring forwards, with some spirit and ingenuity, instances of accelerated speed, in motion and mechanical operations, by the steam-engine; and some cases in Natural and Civil History, not well understood: and from the whole, the author asks, “Whether there is any difficulty in believing that the known laws of nature could be so far increased, in power and velocity, as to produce the same effects in six thousand years, for