

III. An hypothesis was resorted to about thirty years ago by several men of eminence in geological knowledge, such as the late Mr. James Parkinson, Baron Cuvier, and Professor Jameson of Edinburgh ; and it has found approvers and advocates more recently : among whom we may reckon Professor Silliman, (at least a few years ago,) and the anonymous clergyman who wrote the able Preliminary Essay to Dr. Mantell's Illustrations of the Geology of Sussex, published in 1822: but it is now so generally relinquished that more than a brief mention of it will not be necessary. This is, that the Six Days of Creation may be understood of periods of time, of indefinite though of a very great length. Finding in frequent instances of Scripture-use, what is indeed the case in all languages, that the term *day* is put metaphorically to denote any portion of time which has been marked by the accomplishment of some great event or series of events, it was concluded that the same figurative application might be resorted to here. The mind was thus left at liberty to attach to each of these periods any length that the exigency of the case might require, in order to obtain the protracted time which the supporters of this hypothesis knew to be an indispensable provision for the mineral and palæontological formations. They went further, and supposed that the succession of geological beds, with respect to organic remains, exhibited a correspondence with the contents of the sacred narrative in describing the several operations of divine power. Upon this theory a few remarks are submitted.

1. More accurate investigations have proved that the correspondence just mentioned does not exist. Though, to a superficial view, some plausible appearances of this kind present themselves, the scheme fails when it is attempted to be carried into detail.