

edit the readers, introduces many facts of Natural History and principles of Natural Philosophy : yet one may wish that he had accumulated his materials with more discrimination. He has also taken notice of geological subjects, in several of the Letters of which the work consists. He has consulted many books and philosophical journals ; and has brought together, in rapid, but not always correct, sketches, a numerous body of interesting facts. In many of his details and descriptions, I humbly think that his work is mistaken and defective ; the apparent result of having been compiled too hastily, by multifarious reading, without personal observation and practical knowledge. This is particularly the case in his opinions upon stratification ; and in his account of vegetable and animal remains. He supposes all the stratified formations, from the lowest up to the highest secondary, to have been produced in the 1656 years from the creation of man to the deluge ; and the tertiary, to have been the effects of the deluge itself : notions which, one might well think, would be impossible to be received by any person who had examined with his eyes any large extent of stratified masses, and observed the vast thickness of many, and the regularity and order which belong both to the earthy deposits and to the organic remains imbedded in them. But, with all the deficiencies and errors which appear in this part of the work, Mr. Turner has sufficiently conceded the position, that, in any fair interpretation of the commencing portion of Genesis, “the Sacred Historian gives the largest latitude for the investigations and deductions of geological science.”——“What interval occurred between the first creation of the material substance of our globe, and the mandate for light to descend upon it, whether months, years, or ages, is not in the slightest degree noticed. Geology may shorten or extend its duration, as it may find proper. There is no restriction on