

trophe. Let but the deposits at the bottom of the sea, over any particular area, proceed to a certain amount of thickness, and Deity knows, (and he may have disclosed the event and its time to creatures superior to man,) how near we are to the attainment of that point ; and upheaving must take place, escape of the fiery liquid below by a volcanic vent may not be permitted, new continents must then be raised from the bed of the sea, and now-existing land must resume its former place at the bottom of the waters. It may be said that this is a slower process than numbers can assign. Be it so : but, before this point is reached, the operation of the same constant cause may produce earthquakes and volcanic explosions under the soil of Great Britain or Germany, or the intermediate sea ; and in a few moments may send into eternity every human creature, over a wide district. That these countries have not been the seat of such destructive outbursts, within the record of history, or since the creation of man, forms no objection. That they have been so agitated in former periods is among the most certain of facts : and no man can be assured that the renewal of similar events will not take place, at any hour.

I do not advert to these considerations as if religion needed them. Its evidences, its authority, and its motives stand forth full and complete on their own grounds ; and a few years, or perhaps a few of our rapidly fleeting days, will bear away each one of us to our personal judgment. But this is one of the lights in which we may view the interest of geological studies. The records of earthquakes and volcanoes, if we contemplated nothing else in this rich field, are the most awfully impressive that visible nature affords. The Christian cannot exclude them from the universal government of God : nor would he, if he could. Physical events have moral relations. Here we see large extents of country rising, or sinking down, at