

of intensity have affected but a small portion of the immeasurable system of Jehovah's empire, and have been all the effect of more general laws. Every thing that we can observe, and every deduction that we can form, presents the glorious unfoldings of beauty and majesty, the progressive triumphs of wisdom and beneficence.

We ought not to omit the observation, that the causes of most extensive operations are and have been the most silent and quiet. The volcano and the earthquake, necessary as their part has been in carrying on the economy of God's physical government, have had to perform a much inferior part compared with the slow and tranquil processes of deposition, consolidation, elevation, crystallization, cleavage, and electric affinities continually acting. Those hidden operations, whose depth and breadth and length were to be the elements of the most important results through a vast futurity, have in all past time been effected, and now are proceeding, in a manner so gradual, so slow, and yet without any needless consumption of time, as to overwhelm our minds with the contemplation, and to impress us with conceptions at once awful and delightful, of the Wisdom, Power, and Goodness, which have connected incalculable numbers of beings and events, stretching through ages to which we are incompetent to apply a measure; so that they all combine with unflinching accuracy, to effectuate the purposes which only Infinite Perfection could form, or when formed could execute.

Whether fiery catastrophes shall take place, local and successive over different regions, or one universal conflagration involving the globe in simultaneous destruction, (improperly so called, for a glorious future will lie beyond,) is probably beyond the reach of human knowledge to determine. How far the prophetic announcements of Scripture import a literal action of fire, or whether they