

of some exceptions, but he confines them to the elevating force of "volcanic agency." One might almost fancy that the worthy author had never fixed his eyes upon any rocks but those of his own Yorkshire coast, and that he had explored even them but cursorily. That all strata were at their origin deposited horizontally or nearly so, is not the question. But, is it possible for him to be ignorant of the instances innumerable, in almost all parts of the world, where the formations of the secondary series, and many even of the third, follow with most remarkable disconformity? How often a deposit has been laid, long after the underlying one has been raised and bent and broken? The Sections published in the Geological Society's Transactions, and innumerable other works of unquestionable authority, furnish the most ample proofs of the contrary to Dr. Y.'s assertion.

If possible, I am still more surprised to read, "The breaks, or faults, in the strata affect the whole mass of rocks, in almost every instance where they occur; instead of being limited by the boundaries of particular formations." P. 24. So far as, in a subject including many and various conditions, one can lay down general positions, I must say that what he affirms is not the fact, and what he denies, and builds largely upon his denial, is the fact.

It is painful to me to remark thus upon the writing of a very estimable friend; and to be obliged to acknowledge that to me his book appears to abound in misconceptions of the sentiments of others and wrong imputations to them, in assertions positively made, but often hazardous or decidedly erroneous, in narrow investigation and defective induction, and in too rapid conclusions from imperfect premises. I should not however have brought forwards these observations, which might be considerably extended, but for this reason; Dr. Young's character as a Christian and a minister of the gospel, gives weight and currency to his opinions, and some persons have not failed to display his authority as if it were a sufficient refutation of the doctrines commonly maintained by geologists.

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[E.]

*Referred to at pages 74 (where by error it is called B) and 197.*

ON THE REASONS FOR ASSIGNING A VERY HIGH ANTIQUITY TO THE EARTH.

THE evidence of geological phenomena constrains us to the belief that our earth has existed, has been the seat of life, and has under-