

so does Geology, along the track of unnumbered ages, and through the successive births of beings; still finding in all, the uniform design of the same almighty power, and the varied fruits of the same unexhausted goodness.—” From the Report in the Athenæum, Aug. 31, 1839.

Upon this noble generalization, I cannot refuse to cite one passage more from the Christian philosopher of New England, so frequently mentioned with respect in the preceding pages.

“Nor ought it to be forgotten, that these very principles and deductions of Geology, that have excited so much of alarm and opposition among some friends of religion, and so much of premature and groundless exultation among its enemies, have nevertheless, when taken in connection with astronomy, developed and established a LAW of God’s natural government of the universe, *grand beyond all others known to man*, and undiscovered or only dimly seen by the great minds of other generations. I refer to the fact, that *perpetual CHANGE is made the grand conservative and controlling principle of the universe*. Men have always seen and felt this instability in respect to every thing on earth; and they have regarded it as a defect, rather than as a wise law of the natural world. But they now find it to be equally true of suns and planets as of plants and animals. ‘Perpetual change, perpetual progression, increase, and diminution, appear to be the rules of the material world, and to prevail without exception.’ (Prof. Whewell’s *Bridgewater Treat.* p. 158.) And this very instability is the great secret of the permanence and constancy of nature’s operations, and of the adaptation of the external world to the wants and happiness of organized beings. It is ‘a principle superior to those grand rules which we have been accustomed to regard as constituting exclusively the laws of nature; from the security, which we see in it, beyond the longest and apparently most perfect periodical movements of our solar system.’ (Cordier, *sur la Temp. de l’Intérieure de la Terre*; p. 84.) In fine, it is probably the most splendid display of the divine skill which the universe can furnish.” Hitchcock’s *Geol. of Massachusetts*; p. 251.

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The importance of the subject of the preceding note supersedes any apology for its length. But, in relation to that subject, I am under an obligation, the feeling of which is a pleasure: and thus is rendered more incumbent the duty of acknowledging it. The Rev. Professor SEDGWICK, whose liberality of mind and heart is the fit accompaniment of his scientific eminence, has favoured me with com-