

nally created. How different this from the common views of the earth's condition !

A second conclusion, forced upon the practical geologist, is, that the continents of our globe have been for long periods, and most of them several times, beneath the ocean, and have been subsequently elevated from thence, or the waters have been drained off. At least two thirds of these continents are covered by rocks, thousands of feet thick, abounding in the remains of sea animals and plants, which lived near where they are now found, and could not have been drifted far. To accumulate materials, with their fossil contents, several miles thick, must have required immense periods of time. The fractured and upturned condition of most of the older rocks proves that they have been elevated by some internal force, acting vertically or laterally, to form continents. But in some places the strata, especially the newest, have never been disturbed, and in such cases it seems most probable that the waters have been drained off. Again, we have evidence often of the subsidence of the same continent that had long been above the waters, and then a second emergence. Nay, three, and even more vertical movements of this sort are sometimes shown by the geological monuments. Indeed, we have proof that existing continents are now experiencing similar changes, in some places rising, and in others falling, yet so slowly as to be unnoticed, save by the most careful observation.

These vertical changes have not been effected without causing a vast amount of erosion at the earth's surface. While the continents were below the ocean, this work was aided in high latitudes by enormous icebergs, charged with boulders, and driven by the currents along the surface, grinding down its salient parts, and sweeping along the