

barbarous climes, and established that communication between nations which must ultimately be productive of the greatest possible advantages to society at large.

We are sometimes almost persuaded to believe that terrestrial magnetism was expressly provided to facilitate the efforts of man in extending the beneficial influence of knowledge, and to encourage the feeling of curiosity by which he is so much governed in all his determinations and actions. That this was one of the motives which influenced, if we may so speak with reverence, the Eternal Mind, is probable, but we can assign no limit to the influence of the magnetic principle, as developed on the surface of the earth. Philosophers have been unable to trace any positive connexion between the phenomena which seem to be the necessary results of the terrestrial constitution of matter, and terrestrial magnetism ; yet it is possible that climate may be in some degree under its control, electrical phenomena may be governed by it, and the position or activity of volcanoes may be determined by its intensity and force.

The view we are accustomed to take of material creation is so imperfect and confined, that appearances seem entirely independent the one of the other, and the system of the world to be, as it were, disjointed and broken. We ought to use our theoretical opinions as mirrors, not so much for the purpose of looking at them, as of discovering some other objects by their means. The Creator must regard the universe as a mighty individuality, illustrating his wisdom and power ; we see but a portion of it, and are compelled to divide and subdivide that which comes under our view, and are fortunate if we can but ascertain the cause and relations of some one, and that perhaps an unimportant phenomenon. Ultimate principles are, we believe, entirely beyond our reach ; and the only reason we can give for the existence of the complex phenomena by which we are surrounded, is the will of an Almighty Mind to support the existence of animal life in a pleasurable condition. But, when we look at the causes which are influential in the production of this result, we cannot but feel surprised at the means which have been employed for its accomplishment ; for although we perceive their adaptation to produce the result, yet they seem to act the one against the other, and yet without interference, as though they had no other object than to prove the mutability of ma-