

manifested by Professor Oken, a living authority, whom we find prefacing for the Ray Society, in 1847, the English translation of his "Elements of Physio-philosophy?" "The first creation of the organic took place," we find him saying, "where the first mountain summits projected out of the sea, — *indeed, without doubt, in India, if the Himalaya be the highest mountain.*" Here, evidently, in this late age of the world, in which Geology *does* exist as a science, do we find the ghost of the universal ocean of Leibnitz walking once more, as if it had never been laid. Is there now in all Britain even a tyro geologist so unacquainted with geological fact as not to know that the richest flora which the globe ever saw had existed for myriads of ages, and then, becoming extinct, had slept in the fossil state for myriads of ages more, ere the highest summits of the Himalayan range rose over the surface of the deep? The Himalayas disturbed, and bore up along with them in their upheaval, vast beds of the Oolitic system. Belemnites and ammonites have been dug out of their sides along the line of perpetual snow, seventeen thousand feet over the level of the sea. What in the recent period form the loftiest mountains of the globe, existed as portions of a deep-sea bottom, swum over by the fishes and reptiles of the great Secondary period, when what is now Scotland had its dark forests of stately pine, — represented in the present age of the world by the lignites of Helmsdale, Eathie, and Eigg, — and when the plants of a former creation lay dead and buried deep beneath, in shales and fire-clay, — existing as vast beds of coal, or entombed in solid rock, as the brown massy trunks of Granton and Craigleith. And even ere these last existed as living trees, the coniferous lignite of the Lower Old Red Sandstone found at Cromarty had passed into the fossil state, and lay as a semi-