

PART III.

CONNECTION BETWEEN GEOLOGY AND NATURAL AND REVEALED RELIGION.

1. ILLUSTRATIONS OF NATURAL RELIGION FROM GEOLOGY.

1. *Geology shows us that the existing system of things upon the globe had a beginning.*

Proof 1. Existing continents have been raised from the bottom of the sea, where most of their surface was formed by depositions. 2. With a few exceptions, the existing races of animals and plants must have been created since the deposition of all the rocks except the alluvial, because their remains do not occur in the older rocks. Hence it appears that not only the present races of organic beings, but the land which they inhabit, are of comparatively modern production.

Inf. 1. Hence it is inferred that the existing races of animals and plants must have resulted from the creative agency of the Supreme Being; for even if we admit that existing continents might have been brought into their present state by natural causes, the creation of an almost entirely new system of organic beings, could have resulted only from an exertion of an infinitely wise and powerful Being. Indeed, the bestowment of life must be regarded as the highest act of omnipotence.

Inf. 2. Hence the doctrine which maintains that the operations of nature have proceeded eternally as they now do, and that it is unnecessary to call in the agency of the Deity to explain natural phenomena, is shown to be erroneous.

Inf. 3. The preceding inferences being admitted, natural theology need not labor to disprove the eternity of matter, since its eternal duration might be admitted, without affecting any important doctrine.

2. *In all the conditions of the globe from the earliest times, and in the structure of all the organic beings that have successively*