

storms and inundations, glaciers and icebergs. But though sometimes involving men and animals in destruction, yet who will doubt the benevolence of the operation? So the processes by which the various ores have been put into the earth's crust, have been accompanied by violent fracture and dislocation, and a semi-fusion of most of the strata. How little like benevolence, also, to have seen the crust bent, crumpled and fractured, here ridged into mountains, and there sunk into valleys. Yet without all this man never could have got access to many of the useful minerals and rocks, water would have stagnated on the level surface, and the beautiful scenery of the globe would never have been seen. In the fearful history of volcanoes and earthquakes, though full of scenes of appalling suffering, yet who knows how essential they may be to preserve the balance of nature, and prevent the great furnace of heat within the earth from rending it to atoms?

If any inquire why God could not have secured the good without the evil? it can only be said, this is a fallen world, where man requires the discipline of evil, and therefore it is mixed with all sublunary things.

4. *Geology furnishes interesting examples of what may be called prospective benevolence.*

By this is meant a special benevolent provision for the happiness of animals, made long before their existence. The following are examples:

1. The vast amount of coal found in the earth is the result of long and slow processes in the ages far back towards the beginning. Vast forests, almost untenanted by animals, and seemingly of no use then, were buried beneath the soil and waters, and gradually changed into peat, brown coal, bituminous coal, and some of it into anthracite. What if this storehouse of fuel had not been laid up? Human society could not have advanced much beyond barbarism, nor have multiplied as it has done.

2. Gold seems not to have been introduced into the rocks till just long enough before man's appearance to allow erosive agencies to collect it in the low spots, where man could obtain it. Before man no animal needed it, but how great a blessing to man! It does seem as if the time and manner of its introduction into