

that there is a great cycle of changes going on, in which the earthquake and volcano act a very conspicuous part, *and that part a restorative and conservative one*; in opposition to the steadily destructive and levelling action of the ocean waters.

(10.) How this can happen ; what can be the origin of such an enormous power thus occasionally exerting itself, will no doubt seem very marvellous—little short, indeed, of miraculous intervention—but the mystery, after all, is not quite so great as at first it seems. We are permitted to look a little way into these great secrets of nature ; not far enough, indeed, to clear up every difficulty, but quite enough to penetrate us with admiration of that wonderful system of counterbalances and compensations ; that adjustment of causes and consequences, by which, throughout all nature, evils are made to work their own cure ; life to spring out of death ; and renovation to tread in the steps and efface the vestiges of decay.

(11.) The key to the whole affair is to be found in the central heat of the earth. This is no scientific dream, no theoretical notion, but a fact established by direct evidence up to a certain point, and standing out from plain facts as a matter of unavoidable conclusion, in a hundred ways.

(12.) We all know that when we go into a cellar out of a summer sun, it feels *cool* ; but when we go into it out of a wintry frost it is *warm*. The fact is, that a cellar, or a well, or any pit of a moderate depth, has always, day and night, summer and winter, the same degree of