

of which lived and died upon the spot that the rocks now occupy. And rocks of this character, when of any considerable thickness, must have been very many years in the forming. The sagacious Chalmers saw and taught, at the beginning of the present century, that 'the writings of Moses do not fix the antiquity of the globe:' 'if they fix anything at all,' he said, 'it is only the antiquity of the species.' But there were few among either teachers or pupils who saw so clearly as Chalmers; and when the geologist first began to demand a long tale of years for the production of all the stony volumes of his record, it was, like the long price which the ancient sibyl demanded for all *her* volumes, very decidedly refused him. Instead, however, of bating in the demand, or acquiescing in the denial, the geologists have been ever and anon returning, sibyl-like, to drive harder and yet harder bargains, and even to ask, as they do now, as much for a single volume as they formerly asked for the whole; but their library, unlike that offered in sale to the old Roman, is undergoing no diminution in bulk; on the contrary, its volumes increase in number as the demand made for each is raised. But it is at least something to be made to feel, by means of these time-marks in the remote distance, that eternity is not a mere idle name, which at times children employ in their catechisms, but a great and awful fact; and that its unmeasurable amplitude of duration closes as completely around the systems of the geologist in time, as the infinity of extension closes around the systems of the astronomer in space. It is one of the revealed characteristics of the adorable Creator, that 'from everlasting to everlasting he is God.'

On the western coast of Ross and Sutherland, on a general basement of broken primary hills of no great altitude, we find the (*Cambrian*) deposit occurring as a series of noble mountains, now entirely insulated from each other, and that yet give evidence, in their lines of nearly horizontal strata,