

a state of viscosity elongates equatorially, and flattens at its poles ; but if allowed to cool in its original form as a sphere, it retains its perfect sphericity without change, let us whirl it as rapidly as we may ; and no mechanic ever dreams of increasing the disk of a grindstone simply by turning it round. The earth, then, when it assumed its present form, could not have been a solidified mass, like the glass sphere when cooled down, or like the grindstone.

But is it not possible, it may be asked, that the diurnal motion may so act on the depositions taking place in the sea and forming sedimentary rock, or on a region of igneous action interposed between the oxidized crust of the earth and its solid metallic nucleus, and forming plutonic or igneous rock,—is it not possible that, in the course of vastly-extended periods, the earth may have taken its form under the influence of the motion exerted on sedimentary deposition and plutonic intrusion and upheaval? Nay, what, we ask in reply, are the facts? Does the diurnal motion exercise any influence, even the slightest, on deposition or plutonic intrusion? The laws of deposition are few, simple, and well known. The denuding and transporting agencies are floods, tides, waves, icebergs. The sea has its currents, the land its rivers ; but while some of these flow from the poles towards the equator, others flow from the equator towards the poles, uninfluenced by the rotatory motion ; and the vast depth and extent of the equatorial seas show that the ratio of deposition is not greater in them than in the seas of the temperate regions. We have, indeed, in the arctic and antarctic currents, and the icebergs which they bear, agents of denudation and transport permanent in the present state of things, which bring detrital matter from the higher towards the lower latitudes ; but they stop far short of the tropics ; they have no connexion with the rotatory motion ; and their influence on the form of the earth must be infinitely slight ; nay, even were the case otherwise, instead of tending