

As the mountains increased in number by the outburst of new vents and continued to cast forth loose materials, they gradually piled up on the sea-floor many various strata which, especially near the eruptive centres, eventually rose above the surface of the water. The sea grew deeper or its surface rose higher, the more its area was diminished. Fires also afterwards burst out from below the submarine strata, and continued to eject fresh materials which formed new strata that extended beyond those of earlier date. New islands were formed, or were added to older islands or to the continents.

As yet no plants or animals existed. But while the water continued to grow more saline, plants began at last to appear both in the sea and on land. Animals too entered upon the scene, first in the sea, living in the soft sand and among the debris cast out by the mountains, and seldom wandering far from their native places. The dry land became covered with verdure and gave birth to terrestrial animals, finally followed by the advent of man, who then took his place as an inhabitant of this first and most ancient land-surface.

In course of time, the same sequence of events continuing, new mountains emerged from the bosom of the earth, and like their predecessors vomited forth fresh materials which were once more spread out over the floor of the sea and the surface of the land. The strata that were thus deposited in the sea would contain marine productions, while those formed on the land would preserve terrestrial remains, including articles in metal, marble or carved wood as relics of