

animals, can, as the world now exists, be imagined to be produced, without a new and specific act of creation; or at least, without an entire change in the standard of equilibrium.

We have alluded to the commencement of the present order of things, and to a possible state of change in the condition of equilibrium: perhaps, it may not be amiss to make a few further remarks upon these points. That the present order of things, most certainly has had a beginning; and as certainly, will come to an end; we cannot doubt; the questions are, when was this beginning; when will be this end? Of the end, of course, we can know nothing: the beginning is less obscure; and there are indelible impressions left upon the materials and structure of our globe, which throw no ordinary light upon this question. The consideration of the changes which our earth has undergone, however, belongs to another department: we shall only observe, that these changes appear to be of two distinct orders; which have alternated with one another in succession. The first of these orders of changes, seems to have been of a slow and gradual kind; and such as might be supposed to take place, during a state of things, more or less like the present, and existing for a considerable period. The changes of the second order, on the contrary, have evidently been violent, sudden, and disruptive; of comparatively