

short duration, and differing exceedingly in degree, and in extent. In general, they appear to have operated from within ; but whether altogether from internal, or from external influences, is unknown to us. Now, it is remarkable, that these successive alternations seem each time to have changed the standard of equilibrium ; and that during the state of comparative quietude, or the interval of equilibrium between the convulsions, organized beings have existed, adapted to the exigencies of that particular state of equilibrium ; and which beings must have been successively created : moreover, the later creations gradually approach to those at present in existence. Hence, not only does the change in the standard of organization, seem to have been simultaneous with the change in the state of equilibrium ; but both appear to have been progressively raised after each convulsion. Finally, the last general catastrophe of the disruptive order was evidently a deluge.* Such are the conclusions, which geologists have deduced from a careful survey of that part of the crust of the

* If we judge from what is going on around us in nature, and from the little tendency there appears to be in things, at present, to combine into new forms ; we must be almost led to the conclusion, that the developement of new elements, as well as of new agents, is necessary to produce new and specific arrangements. May we not then infer, that during those periodic convulsions alluded to in the text, new elements have been developed, or old ones decomposed into others of a higher, and more