

ficial examination of those parts of the earth's crust, to which we can obtain access, is sufficient to convince us, that this quietude has not *always* existed; and consequently, that the present state of things must have had a beginning. In short, the phenomena of geology appear to show, that our earth during its progress, has undergone, alternately, periods of comparative quietude, like that in which we now live; and periods of derangement and convulsion, in which the preceding states of quietude, and their consequences, have been more or less subverted; and a new order of things, has been induced. To enter further into details regarding these changes, however, would be quite foreign to the object of the present volume. It is the business of the Geologist, to point out the changes which our earth has evidently undergone, before it arrived at its present condition; to trace the earth, as it were, from a state of chaos, through all its metamorphoses, whether sudden and convulsive, or slow and gradual; and to show, that all these changes have not resulted from chance, but from the agency of an intelligent Being, operating with some ulterior purpose; and according to certain laws, to which he had chosen to restrict himself:—to demonstrate, in fact, that to these very convulsions and changes, we owe all that boundless variety of sea and of land, of mountain and plain, of hill and valley; all that endless admixture of rocks, of strata and of soils, so essential to the existence