

that these *functions of life* have had so great a share in the formation of those parts of the geological bodies, which are accessible to our examination, we may, it appears to me, conclude, by reasonable induction, that the same mighty engine of formation has been employed from the "beginning" to construct the entire diameter and circumference of the earth, more especially as we know of no agencies equal to the vital functions and their deposits for producing formations, and I trust to have shewn also, that the idea of the incandescence of the earth will not render this theory untenable.

In note 6th of this edition will be found an extract from Good's Book of Nature, in which the opinion of the immortal Newton is stated, on the subject of an ethereal and elastic medium, pervading all space in the heavens; which opinion we consider as a strong confirmation of that part of our system relating to the mode by which the sun's waste of light and heat may be replenished.

I have now solely to present this second edition to the public, relying with confidence on their candid perusal of it; and hoping that I shall have at least gained one end, that of exalting the utility of the sciences on which I have formed this System of Creation, towards enabling us to discover more fully the wisdom of the First Cause in His creation.

In that part of the work which treats of the dissolution of the earth, we have stated an idea, that "the indestructibility of the laws of nature, and their eternal tendency to form new combinations of matter, offer a proof also, of the distinct destined existence, and of the immortality of the soul of man." If this induction be just, we may infer from our reason, that the soul is immortal, and it may perhaps offer a consolatory confirmation of the revealed religion, that its promises are found consistent with our reasoning powers; and with the inductions of science. And I ardently hope, that this power of the sciences may tend to lead many of the rising generation to acquire a knowledge thereof, and a zeal for their future advancement, in furtherance of greater and glorious discoveries of the benevolent wisdom of our Creator.

QUEBEC, March, 1840.

HENRY TAYLOR.