GEOLOGY.

sonable to suppose that there may be such occasions. That every emergency must have been foreseen, and that it might have been provided for by the divine prescience, so as to have rendered any direct interposition of the divine power unnecessary, is readily admitted; but the question is not, what might have been done, but what would have been proper; and as we have been created by the divine power, and are wholly dependent upon the divine bounty, it may be useful to us, from time to time, to be reminded of this; and nothing can make us more sensible of our dependence on God, than to see distinctly that the laws of nature themselves are in his power; and this is placed beyond all doubt by the discoveries of Geology.

In the composition and structure of the crust of the earth, we meet with frequent and decisive proofs, either that the laws of nature have been different from what they are at present, or that if they were the same, they were at times connteracted by influences which are not now in operation, The uniform tendency of the laws of nature, so far as we have the ability and means of "nscertaining it, is to preserve every thing in the same state, or at least from any permaneut change. There are many established cycles in nature. but they are regular and uniform in their respective courses. They are exact repetitions of one another, without any real deviation; and we can tell at the commencement of any one of them, how long it will move in a certain direction, and when it will return to the starting point; and it is from our experience of this undeviating uniformity in the operations of nature, that we have come to the conclusion that like causes will always produce like effects, and that like effects have always been produced by like causes-that the chain of sequences has always been, and will always continue to be uninterrupted. But when we examine the past history of the earth, our confidence in the soundness of this conchesion must be shaken, for in ancient times the operations of nature have tended as much to important changes, as they now tend to prevent all such changes. " Amid all the revolutions of nature," says Professor Playfair, " the econoway of things and thin all and the varial like a' only t " A

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