

Univers. 1800.

Cuvier, "the
are now found,
and at heights
the action of

be this pheno-
and simple one,
: all its geolo-
formation in a
record sufficient
waters recorded
bly press them-
perfectly com-
ena of Creation.

g no extraneous
ial or complete,
ns are found to
The petrifying
h such fabulous
solely owing to
had previously

tate our humble
which the Cre-
ual formation of
on the ground-
the 1st verse of

"In the begin-
the earth."

pendix No. 2.

I wish first to premise, that, as I consider this Scriptural account of Creation to be the only one by which we can, naturally and reasonably, account for the geological phenomena of our earth; so, the only thing in which I differ from the, hitherto, received opinions of that Creation is, in the construction which (from a desire to account for these phenomena, and to reconcile them with the Scriptural accounts,) I have put upon the meaning of this first verse of Genesis.

As before observed, I had, in the course of these studies of nature, been led by them, and by reading and reflection, gradually to come to such a construction of that verse as the following:—That the term "the beginning," *pointing to no specific time*, may refer to numerous ages previous to the separation of the waters from the waters mentioned in the 6th, 7th, and 9th verses; and I moreover consider, that every man hath a perfect right to form such a construction of the Word of God as his understanding, after mature reflection on His works, and a diligent study of them, may lead him to; and more especially when his design is good, when he conceives he is thereby not only adding weight and authority to these Scriptures, by bringing the evidence of the geology of every part of the globe to their confirmation, but, perhaps, silencing thereby the infidelity of the sceptic, and, as he may hope, exhibiting, in a stronger light, the power, wisdom, and glory of his Creator.

In the 2d verse of Genesis it is said, "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."