

mentioned, and we have a right to conclude, that the remainder may equally well have been produced thereby, and by the animals of the primeval ocean; since *some* marine animals are well known to secrete the lime of which their shells are composed, and the islands formed by the coral insect equal in length one-eighth of the diameter of the earth. The basis of almost all the primary earths have lately been found by Sir Humphrey Davy to be metallic, and, in a subsequent part of this work, it will be seen from Sharon Turner's work, that several metals are produced by these functions of vegetation. If this power be allowed by scientific men to these functions of terrestrial vegetables, we certainly may, by the clearest rules of induction, believe they were also possessed by the marine vegetable kingdom of the primeval oceans of Genesis,\* and most likely in a higher degree, for the great end of producing the solid parts of the earth; and we have then a palpable way of accounting for these productions, namely, the continual labour of some species of the marine animals during life, and the deposition of the marine vegetable and animal kingdoms after death; and accordingly most of the geological bodies we are enabled to analyze are found to contain the same materials as the remains of vegetable and animal life afford.

If, therefore, this theory of the power of the vital functions of vegetation and animalization be sustained, we trust we shall have come to a sufficient knowledge of what "silica, alumina, magnesia, lime, carbon, iron, and the other metals and primitive compounds of the minerals intrinsically are;" for, if the functions of vegetable and animal life be allowed to have produced these substances in the oceanic waters of Genesis, they must have produced them from the elements which surrounded them, namely, oxygen, azote, hydrogen, caloric, light and electricity, blended together by the vital principle of the vegetable and animal, in proportions of vast variety, and by which variety the separate characteristics of

\* Sodium, one of the new metals discovered by Sir H. Davy, is contained in all marine vegetables.

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