

God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." This is evidently not to be regarded as a poetical or figurative representation, but as a plain matter of fact statement, made with a view to affect our minds and influence our conduct; and it clearly foretells another general revolution, in which the mass of the globe is to be melted, and its elements are to be reconstructed on a new principle, and adapted to a new and different mode of existence from the present. We have no right to regard one part of the passage as literal, and another as figurative; and as one part of it undoubtedly refers to the dissolution of the earth, and its attendant atmosphere, the other must refer to the reconstruction of both, upon an improved plan. It is at present infested with vice and crime, and a scene of much privation and suffering, and consequently adapted to the nature of the transactions of which it is the theatre, and the characters of those who are actors upon its stage; but it may be destined to become the abode of purity and of peace, and to be brought into an accordance with that design. Man is intended for a far higher and happier state of existence than the present, and should the earth be hereafter the occasional resort, or stated residence of any part of the human family in their improved condition, it will no doubt be adapted to that end; and it is clear from the passage, that to whatever extent it may be changed, or to whatever future use it may be appropriated, heat is again to be the revolutionizing agent, as it has so often been in times that are past.

For all this our minds are prepared by the discoveries of Geology. Though we may now regard the earth as an emblem of stability, its mutability is indelibly written in its structure. It is the nursery of a race of beings who are formed with aspirations which it cannot satisfy, and who instinctively look forward to another state of existence than the present, and one more adapted to their capacities and powers. It has already undergone a series of vast and im-