

gradually confirmed me in the opinion, that our earth was originally formed in a fluid, and was deposited from it.

In the treatise on chemistry by Professor Chaptal, I found an account of the chaotic system of creation of the ancients, by which it is supposed, that the chaotic mixture, being formed, the various substances were attracted to each other, by the laws of mutual affinity, and precipitated.

On frequent reflection, however, on this theory, and contrasting it with the general state of the depositions of the earth in strata and laminae, it appeared to me to be totally insufficient to account for these appearances: had a chaotic mixture been formed by the Creator, containing in solution all the various geological bodies, and had nothing more been required for their formation, than the operation of their affinities and attractions, these must have taken place immediately, and they would be found in homogenous and exclusive masses, according to their various affinities and gravities: but the formations are generally found in alternate layers and laminae of frequently mixed substances, and this too without coincidence with the laws of gravity, and bear the certain marks, not only of being deposited from a fluid, but also, of a gradual and mixed deposition, at periods probably of immense distance from each other. This reflection led me to conceive that these depositions were gradually produced by some permanent and continually operating cause.

In the above mentioned work of Chaptal, I had found, and been much struck with, the beautiful and interesting theory he has given of the forma-