

the more it is examined the more profoundly will be exhibited His bounty and His wisdom. We trust to have shewn, that the theory of the existence of animal life, previous to the secondary formations, is tenable, and that the incandescence of the earth, as supposed by Dr. Buckland, does not overthrow it; and, therefore, that we have a right to say, with a great modern geologist, "That the causes at present in operation must have been producing the same effects in all preceding ages."

We conclude, therefore, that attempts to form a system of the creation, when based upon authenticated scientific facts, are allowable, and the more so, that in the present enlightened state of the world, these systems can be duly examined and their merits determined.

We have, in this edition, at the close of the theory of the sun's formation, given some account of Sir Richard Phillips' Theory of the Cause of the Motions of the Heavenly Bodies. This theory offers an additional sanction to those which we have stated, in favour of our theory of the existence of gaseous media in the regions of space. But we are by no means prepared to join Sir Richard in his opinions against the Newtonian theory of gravitation and attraction. We conceive that these great laws of nature may still exist, and that they may be reconcilable to, and be assisted by, the gaseous media; and, as we have shewn in note 6th of second edition, Sir Isaac Newton himself suggests "the existence of an ethereal and gaseous medium pervading all space;" and perhaps the existence of this gaseous medium would serve to shew the physical cause of these principles of attraction and gravitation, and thereby account for their effects.

We have also inserted an extract from Sir John Herschell's Astronomy of last year, also sanctioning our idea of the supply of the sun's waste by gaseous matter; and it is with the greater satisfaction we give this extract from Sir John's work, that the late Doctor Herschell was of opinion that the sun might be habitable. Sir John has now declared his opinion, that "the sun's zodiacal light is part of that medium