

there is no just reason why the human mind should be fettered in the profoundly interesting science of cosmogony more than in any other. There is not, perhaps, in the vast range of nature's works, one which excites in the mind a greater degree of mysterious wonder, than the inspection of the rocky formations of the earth. The perfect order in the movements of the heavenly bodies, their surprising distances and magnitudes, it is true, are of a more grand and sublime description; but the rocky formations belong to our own domain, and however some may call in question the vast distances and magnitudes of the heavenly bodies, yet, of the enormous depths, breadths and lengths of the formations of our earth, we have the direct evidences of sight and touch.

What are the agencies by which the Creator has formed these mysterious productions, is therefore the silent question which every close observer of nature asks himself. And, accordingly, numerous theories, not only of the crust of the earth, but of the earth itself, have long since been offered to mankind. Many of these, however, being founded only on the imaginative conceptions of ingenious men, have not maintained their ground. None of them, I believe, but Hutton, as before mentioned, and a few of the German geologists, have offered any tangible mode of formation which the Deity may have chosen, for the production of the entire body of the geological formations of the earth.

In the first paragraph of the preface to the first edition of this work, I have stated that my object in forming my construction of the first verse of Genesis, was to be enabled to reconcile the Mosaic account of creation with the time said by the modern geologists to be required for these formations; having done this, my next wish was to inquire what physical laws the Creator had chosen to produce these formations.—By physical laws they are undoubtedly formed, as far as we have access to examine them; and we have the powerful sanction of every part of nature to conclude, by analogy, that the entire diameter of the globe is equally so. By the 6th, 7th and 9th verses of the 1st of Genesis, we find the earth