

But this speculation is purely hypothetical, and far more congenial to the taste of the Poet, who delights in the construction of new creations, and fabrics of the brain, than to the sober judgement of the inductive Philosopher, who reasons from well-authenticated facts.

But the ancient revolutions of the earth, it may be said, have already been referred to physical agency, and though not agreeable to the existing order of things, are not to be regarded in the light of miracles. But if they prove that the laws of nature have either been changed, or if they have been always the same, that they have been repeatedly counteracted by other influences, they disprove the doctrine of their undeviating uniformity. They show that reasons for their interruptions and suspensions have existed; and if so, reasons for their interruption may have occurred again.

But the discoveries of Geology go farther than this, they show that events have actually occurred which were strictly miraculous, and which, if they were now to be repeated, would be regarded as miracles of the highest order. No event could be more truly miraculous than the creation of a man, or indeed of any one of the inferior animals; and if Geology proves any thing at all, it proves undoubtedly that all organized beings whatever, whether animal or vegetable, have been created. Whatever theory of the earth we adopt, we come, in tracing back its history, to a period that was antecedent to the existence of any of them; and they must therefore have all had a beginning. Dr. Lyell, who dissents from this view of the matter, and alleges that the primary strata might have been originally fossiliferous, and that the organic remains embedded in them have been obliterated by their partial crystallization, readily admits that the earth undoubtedly existed before either the creation of man or any other existing race. "If we have found it impossible," says he, "to assign a limit to that time, throughout which it has pleased an Omnipotent and Eternal Being to manifest his creative power, we have at least succeeded beyond all hope, (Did he not mean "beyond all question?") in carrying back our researches to times antecedent to the ex-