

PREFACE

TO THE

FIFTH EDITION.

GEOLOGY, now deservedly one of the most popular and attractive of the physical sciences, was, not many years ago, held in little estimation ; and even at present, there are not wanting some who do not hesitate to maintain, that it is a mere tissue of ill observed phenomena, and of hypotheses of boundless extravagance. The work of **CUVIER** now laid before the public, contains in itself not only a complete answer to these ignorant imputations, but also demonstrates the accuracy, extent, and importance of many of the facts and reasonings of this de-