

to the operation of physical laws, which laws also affected, more or less, the fate of the various races of plants and animals that were successively called into existence. But, there is no reason to believe that any part of the crust of the earth, reaching even to a fathomless depth, is now in the condition in which it was originally made; every portion has been worked over and brought into new forms, and these changes have arisen from the action of those physical laws which the Creator established, and which are as truly his work, as the materials upon which they operate. The amount of time is the only difficulty, and this will vanish before an enlarged and reasonable view of the whole subject, taken both in its geological and historical bearings.

*Nature of the evidence.*

The evidence is the same which is readily admitted as satisfactory in the case of historical antiquities.

Roman coins, weapons, personal ornaments, utensils, baths, roads, camps and military walls, and defences of various kinds, have been frequently discovered in Britain. They are ascertained to be Roman, by their resemblance to, or identity with, the acknowledged productions of that remarkable people, as still existing in Italy and the adjacent countries, the ancient seat of their dominion. Had Julius Caesar and the other Roman historians and writers been silent as to the Roman invasion of Britain, and as to the Roman dominion, which, for more than four centuries, existed in that island; still, could any one, acquainted with the facts, hesitate to believe, that the Romans had not only visited Britain, but also remained there, as conquerors and masters, for a great length of time. Had all historical knowledge of the Romans been lost, would not the antiquary who examined the relics named above, and who also extended his observations to other countries where similar things were found, with perhaps the addition of splendid aqueducts, and temples, and amphitheatres, all evidently originating from one and the same people, would he not, without hesitation, pronounce them to have been highly civilized, warlike and powerful; and would he hesitate to assign to them a considerably high antiquity.

At this moment, the barrows or sepulchral mounds, some of them of stupendous size, which are so frequent in some parts of England, and in various parts of Europe and Asia, besides similar structures in North America, with the stupendous forts, which, in Ohio and Kentucky, and other western states, amaze and confound the observer;