

THE
MEDALS OF CREATION.



INTRODUCTION.

“ Geology, in the magnitude and sublimity of the objects of which it treats, undoubtedly ranks next to Astronomy in the scale of the sciences.”—*Sir J. F. W. Herschel.*

GEOLOGY (a term derived from two Greek words, signifying a discourse of the Earth) may be denominated the physical history of the globe ; it is the science that investigates the structure of the planet on which we live, and the character and causes of the various changes which have taken place in the organic and inorganic kingdoms of nature, and is therefore intimately connected with every other branch of natural philosophy.

While in common with other scientific pursuits it possesses the power of conferring upon us the noblest and purest pleasures of which our natures are