

his labours, and of the talents and filial affection of his two daughters, by whom all the plates were engraved, figures many fossil shells, and describes them as real animal productions, and carefully compares them with the recent species. To him also the honour is due of having first suggested the construction of geological maps; Dr. Lister was likewise well acquainted with the position and extent of the chalk and other strata of the south of England.*

From the numerous foreign writers, who at a very early period began to entertain correct notions of the structure of our planet, and of the nature of the revolutions which it had undergone, I am induced to select the following highly philosophical and beautiful illustration of the physical mutations to which the surface of the earth is perpetually exposed. It is from an Arabic manuscript written in the thirteenth century.† The narrative is supposed to be given by Rhidhz, an allegorical personage.

“I passed one day by a very ancient and populous city, and I asked one of its inhabitants how long it had been founded? ‘It is, indeed, a mighty city,’ replied he; ‘we know not how long it has existed, and our ancestors were on this subject as ignorant

* This celebrated physician, and first of British geologists, died in 1712, and was interred in the old church in this place (Clapham); a tablet to his memory is affixed to the north wall of St. Paul’s Chapel.

† Quoted by Mr. Lyell in his “Principles of Geology.”