

lips when it vents its fury—when it breathes flame and mutters thunder? Each of these awful powers, the aqueous and the igneous, seems to be in itself illimitable. But there is a God who can make even such agencies become bounds to one another; who can poise them in salutary proportion and counteraction, and reduce all their frightful mastery to a mutual helpfulness, by that power which weighs the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance; which stretches out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.

II.—CONSOLIDATION AND DISINTEGRATION.

We present another example of compensating processes: The dry land is partly in a soft, earthy state, yielding easily to pressure, and partly hard and stony, resisting the separation of its particles. Both these conditions of it are manifestly required and serviceable. If the matter of the globe were all reduced to powder, there could be no arts—no architecture. A stately edifice could not be built of mud. If, on the other hand, the entire mass of the globe were solidified