

rious constituents to each other, as to admit of explanation, only upon the supposition of the whole being different parts of the same magnificent Design; while the infinite variety, where all might have been otherwise, must be considered as equally indicative of the Benevolence, and the Power of the Designer.

Next to Climate, the circumstance in which organized beings are most immediately concerned, is SOIL; a subject already alluded to, but which it will be necessary to illustrate a little further before we proceed.

The soil is that collection of matters, more or less in a state of comminution, which immediately covering the general surface of the earth, fills up its minor inequalities, and rounds off its asperities. On this layer of comminuted mineral substances and organic remains, all vegetables and animals, at least all land animals, depend for their existence; and, if there ever was a time when the materials composing this globe were collected into solid masses, it is evident that such a condition must have excluded the greater number of plants and animals; even if every thing else had existed the same as at present.

The formation of the soil has apparently been a work of time, and the result of the gradual attrition of the solid materials composing the crust of this globe. Hence the formation of