

primary from the secondary strata, the stratified from the unstratified rocks, the great coal deposit from the Lignites, and far more.

Hitherto, these deposits have, as yet, been certainly found only in Italy, but they are probably not limited to that country, if the present theory be correct. For the bare facts themselves, we are indebted to Brocchi; but as he has singularly failed in his attempt to explain them, I have endeavoured to supply that deficiency; without, however, presuming to suggest any alterations in his views of the facts themselves. Where, in some cases, those seem deficient, I have merely proposed amendments on his own principles. It is an extreme abuse, on the part of systematic writers, to determine what an observer ought to have seen; as this practice may be made subservient to any hypothesis, and as it renders all observation useless: but there is no rule of philosophy against the attempt to reconcile the observations of others to general principles, where the observers themselves may have failed. The Italian alluvia in question have been hitherto classed with the tertiary or fresh water deposits, without any attempt at distinction, or at an explanation of their origin: while these Subapennine formations, as they were called, have been held to contain great mysteries, which were hopeless, but likely to furnish the clue to the later revolutions of the Earth. That mystery is, I trust, here solved, by a very simple review and arrangement of plain facts.

The task of Signor Brocchi would not have been left to another, had he paid more respect to the theory of his countryman Lazzaro Moro, to whom this science owes a debt which his successors have been most unaccountably unwilling to acknowledge. That a late illustrator of this theory under a much more