

**CAUSE AND
EFFECT; OR, THE
GLOBE WE INHABIT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649414796

Cause and Effect; Or, the Globe We Inhabit by R. Mackley Browne

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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BY

R. MACKLEY BROWNE, F.G.S.,

AUTHOR OF "ASTRONOMICAL GEOLOGY."

"The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them
that have pleasure therein."—Ps. cxi. 2.



LONDON:

L. REEVE & CO., 5, HENRIETTA STREET,
COVENT GARDEN.

1868.

168. f. 18.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE PHIPPS, 18 & 14, TOTHILL STREET,
WESTMINSTER.

PREFACE.

It was after no mere hasty consideration of the matters he discussed in the Treatise which he published upwards of two years ago, that the Author of this Volume then ventured into print. At various intervals in the course of many years he had used the opportunities afforded him in his rambles at home and abroad to make himself practically acquainted with the most conspicuous evidences which the rocks furnish respecting their own origin and history. The more closely he examined those evidences with the help of the written works of our leading geologists, the more plainly and convincingly did they seem to indicate that the existing condition of the earth's "crust" resulted from a most gradually developed and an ever-progressive course of events.

That the upper portion of the dry land consists for the most part of marine sedimentary deposits is necessarily admitted on all hands to be a proof that existing

continents and islands have been, during some former time or times, submerged beneath the water which constitutes the oceans of the world. There seems to be no doubt also, that, at the present day, a deepening of the sea is taking place in the neighbourhood of some coasts, while elsewhere the dry land is found to be rising higher above the sea level.

The occurrence of such a change in the relative positions of the land and sea surfaces is naturally suggestive of the question, whether it is not an effect that arises from circumstances connected with the ocean itself, rather than from the distension and contraction of the solid earth. On the inquiry being prosecuted with especial reference to the actual condition of the aqueous rocks, and with the aid which is derivable from the explanations of astronomy respecting the motions of the globe and the mode in which the waters upon its surface are affected by the influence of gravitation, it appears to be demonstrable that the phenomenon in question is attributable to an astronomical origin.

Since the publication of his former book the Author has striven to test in various ways the accuracy of the conclusions he had formed. But, neither by the means

he has resorted to for that purpose, nor in the criticisms of his Treatise which appeared in various journals, has he been able to discover any substantial reason for believing that the theory he had the boldness to advance is incorrect.

In the following pages he has endeavoured to describe in a plain and practical manner some of the actual circumstances from which that theory is deduced, and he presumes to hope that the topics which are therein brought forward may be deemed sufficiently important to justify the consideration of geologists, and that they are so introduced as to be of some interest to the general reader.

Hampstead,
November 1867.

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