

are connected with others by subterraneous passages, and that their explosions frequently happen at one and the same time. There are similar correspondences between certain lakes and neighbouring seas; some rivers and torrents suddenly disappear, and seem to precipitate themselves into the earth. We also find inland seas, constantly receiving an enormous quantity of water from a number of rivers without ever extending their bounds, most probably discharging by subterraneous passages all their superfluous supplies. Lands which have been long inhabited are easily distinguished from new countries, where the soil appears in a rude state, where the rivers are full of cataracts, where the earth is either overflowed with water, or marshy, or parched up with drought, and where every spot, upon which a tree will grow, is covered with uncultivated woods.

Pursuing our examination in a more extensive view, we find that the upper strata that surrounds the globe is universally the same. That this substance, which serves for the growth and nourishment of animals and vegetables, is nothing but a composition of decayed animal and vegetable bodies, or rather reduced into such small particles that their former organization