

great revolution there were neither mountains, marble, nor rocks, nor clays, nor matters of any kind similar to those we are at present acquainted with, as they almost all contain shells and other productions of the sea. Besides, at the time of the deluge the earth must have acquired a considerable degree of solidity, from the action of gravity, for more than sixteen centuries, and consequently it does not appear possible that the waters, during the short time the deluge lasted, should have overturned and dissolved its surface to the greatest depths we have since been enabled to penetrate.

But without dwelling longer on this point, which shall hereafter be more amply discussed, I shall confine myself to well-known observations and established facts. There is no doubt but that the waters of the sea at some period covered and remained for ages upon that part of the globe which we now inhabit; and which consequently were then the bottom of an ocean abounding with similar productions to those which the sea at present contains; it is equally certain that the different strata which compose the earth being, as we have remarked, parallel and on a level, it is evident their being in this situation is the operation of the waters which

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