

have collected and accumulated by degrees the different materials, and given them the same position as the water itself always assumes. We observe that the position of strata is almost universally horizontal: in plains it is exactly so, and it is only in the mountains that they are inclined to the horizon, from their having been originally formed by a sediment deposited upon an inclined base. Now I insist that these strata must have been formed by degrees, and not all at once, by any revolution whatever, because strata composed of heavy materials are very frequently found placed above light ones, which could not be, if, as some authors assert, the whole had been mixed with the waters at the time of the deluge, and afterwards precipitated; in that case every thing must have had a very different appearance to that which now exists. The heaviest bodies would have descended first, and each particular stratum would have been arranged according to its specific gravity, and we should not see solid rocks or metals placed above light sand any more than coal under clay.

We should also pay attention to another circumstance; it confirms what we have said
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