

shells, &c. which naturally take an horizontal position ; these matters accumulate by degrees in the course of time, and being raised to a certain point gradually exclude the water, and so become part of the dry land for ever after.

But not to leave any doubt upon this important point, let us strictly examine into the possibility or impossibility of a mountain's being formed at the bottom of the sea by the motions and sediments of the waters. It is certain that on a coast against which the sea beats with violence during the agitation of its flow, every wave must carry off some part of the earth ; for wherever the sea is bounded by rocks, it is known that the water by degrees wears away those rocks, and consequently carries away small particles every time the waves retire ; these particles of earth and stone will necessarily be transported to some distance, and being arrived where the agitation of the water is abated, and left to their own weight, they precipitate to the bottom in form of a sediment, and there form a first stratum either horizontal or inclined, according to the position of the surface upon which they fall ; this will shortly be covered by a similar stratum produced by the same cause, and thus will a considerable  
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