

To confirm what we here assert, let us more closely investigate the situation of those materials which compose the superficial part of the globe, indeed the only part of which we have any knowledge. The different beds of strata in stone quarries are almost all horizontal, or regularly inclined; those whose foundations are on clays or other solid matters are clearly horizontal, especially in plains. The quarries wherein we find flint, or brownish grey free-stone, in detached portions, have a less regular position, but even in those the uniformity of nature plainly appears, for the horizontal or regularly inclined strata are apparent in quarries where those stones are found in great masses. This position is universal, except in quarries where flint and brown free-stone are found in small detached portions, the formation of which we shall prove to have been posterior to that of other matters; for granite, vitrifiable sand, clay, marble, calcareous stone, chalk, and marles, are always deposited in parallel strata, horizontally or equally inclined; the original formation of these is easily discovered, for the strata are exactly horizontal and very thin, and are arranged above each other like the leaves of a book.