

will be overflowed, and constantly make part of the ocean. Besides, are not mountains daily decreasing by the rains which loosen the earth, and carry it down into the vallies? It is also well known that floods wash the earth from the plains and high grounds into the small brooks and rivers, who in their turn convey it into the sea. By these means the bottom of the sea is filling up by degrees, the surface of the earth lowering to a level, and nothing büt time is necessary for the sea's successively changing places with the earth.

I speak not here of those remote causes which stand above our comprehension; of those convulsions of nature, whose least effects would be fatal to the world; the near approach of a comet, the absence of the moon, the introduction of a new planet, &c. are suppositions on which it is easy to give scope to the imagination. Such causes would produce any effects we choose, and from a single hypothesis of this nature, a thousand physical romances might be drawn, and which the authors might term, *The Theory of the Earth*. As historians we reject these vain speculations; they are mere possibilities which suppose the destruction  
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