

water ; it is generally met with at much less depths, and there is no appearance that the waters of rivers filter far through the earth. The origin of waters found in the earth below the level of rivers is not to be attributed to them ; for in rivers or torrents which are dried up, or whose courses have been turned, we find no greater quantity of water by digging in their beds than in the neighbouring lands at an equal depth.

A piece of land of five or six feet in thickness is sufficient to contain water, and prevent it from escaping ; and I have often observed that the banks of brooks and pools are not sensibly wet at six inches distance from the water.

It is true that the extent of the filtration is according as the soil is more or less penetrable ; but if we examine the standing pools with sandy bottoms, we shall perceive the water to be confined in the small compass it had hollowed itself, and the moisture spread but a very few inches ; even in vegetable earth it has no great extent, which must be more porous than sand or hard soil. It is a certain fact, that in a garden we may almost inundate one bed without those nearly adjoining feeling any