

less for the instruction of men than for the amusement of children

Steno, and some others, have attributed the cause of the inequalities of the earth to particular inundations, earthquakes, &c. but the effects of these secondary causes could not have produced any thing more than slight changes. We admit these causes after the first cause, which is the motion of the flux and reflux, and of the sea from east to west. Neither Steno, nor the rest, have given theory, nor even any general facts on this matter*.

Ray pretends that all mountains have been produced by earthquakes,, and he has composed a treatise to prove it; we shall shew under the article of Volcanos what little foundation his opinion is built upon.

We cannot omit to observe that Burnet, Woodward, Whiston, and most of the other authors we have mentioned, have committed an error which deserves to be removed; which is, they have looked upon the deluge as possible by the action of natural causes, whereas scripture presents it to us as produced by the immediate will of God; there is in fact, no natural cause which could produce on the whole surface of the earth,
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* See the Diss. de Solido intra Solidum, &c.