

or water, in a great measure regains the mass it had lost by calcination ; the water, with the air it contains, replaces that which the stone contained before. Stone then retakes its first nature, for in mixing lime with the remains of other stones, a mortar is made which hardens, and becomes a solid substance, like those from which it is composed.

Thus, then, we see on the one hand all the calcareous matters, the origin of which we must refer to animals ; and on the other, all the combustible matters proceeding from animal or vegetable substances ; they occupy together a great space on the earth ; yet, however great their number may be, they only form a small part of the terrestrial globe, the principal foundation of which, and the greatest quantity consists in one matter of the nature of glass ; a matter we must look upon as terrestrial element, to the exclusion of all other substances, to which it serves as a base, like earth, when it forms vegetables by the means, or remains of animals, and by the transformation of the other elements ; and it is also the ulterior term to which we can return or reduce them all.

It appears that the animal filter converts water into stone ; the vegetable filtre can also transform it, when all the circumstances are found