

the internal part, of the globe; they were raised and dispersed in the form of vapours, and could not deposit themselves but successively in proportion as it cooled, by which means some of these matters have penetrated through the clefts and crevices of the earth to great depths, in an infinity of places; and this is the primitive foundation of volcanos, which are all found in lofty mountains, were the clefts of the earth are so much the greater as these points of the globe are more projecting and isolated. This deposit of the volatile combustible matters of the first ages will have been greatly augmented by the addition of every combustible matter which has been subsequently formed. Pyrites, sulphurs, coal, bitumen, &c. have penetrated into the principal cavities of the earth, and produced almost every where great masses of inflammable matters, and often conflagrations, which have been manifested by earthquakes, eruptions of volcanos, and by the hot springs which flow from mountains, or run internally in the cavities of the earth. It may, therefore, be presumed that these subterraneous fires, some of which burn without explosion, and others with great noise and violence, somewhat increase the general heat of the globe. Nevertheless this addition of heat can be only very slight,