

earth and rock above is more than twenty-five fathoms thick.*

The salt mines in Poland form still greater excavations than the above. There are generally vast quarries near large towns. But we cannot proceed farther in particulars; besides, the labour of man, however great, will ever hold but a small place in the history of nature.

Volcanos and waters which produce caverns internally, form also external clefts, precipices, and abysses. At Cajeta, in Italy, there is a mountain which had formerly been separated by an earthquake, in a manner so as to appear as if the division was made by the hands of men. We have already spoken of the divisions in the island of Machian, of the abyss of mount Azarat, of the gap in the Cordeliers, and that of Thermopyle, &c. To these may be added, the gap in the mountain of Troglodytes, in Arabia, which nature only sketched out, and which Victor Amadeus caused to be finished. Water as well as subterraneous fires produce considerable sinking of the earth, fall of rocks, and overthrow mountains, of which we can give many examples.

“ In the month of June 1714, a part of the
mountain

* See Abridg. Phil. Trans. vol. XI, page 461.