

and marbles, which serve as a base to hills composed of calcinable matters.

Water, by flowing through perpendicular clefts, and by penetrating the strata of these vitrifiable sands, clays, and earths, becomes impregnated with the fine and most homogeneous parts of these matters, and forms many different concretions, such as talcs, amianthus's, and various other substances produced by distillations through vitrifiable matters.

Flint, notwithstanding its hardness and density, has, like common marble and hard stone, its exudations, from whence stalactites of different kinds result, whose varieties of transparency, colours and configuration, are according to the nature of the flint which produces them, and the different metallic or heterogeneous matters which it contains. Rock crystal, all precious stones, white or coloured, and even diamonds, may be regarded as stalactites of this kind. Flints in small pieces, whose strata are generally concentric, are also stalactites, or parasitical stones; from flints of large dimensions, and most fine opaque stones, are only species of flint. Matters of a vitrifiable kind, as we have observed, do not produce so great a  
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