

time, from which he concludes that the ground which is marshy has increased above a foot in eleven years, or an inch and a twelfth every year. A similar observation occurs with respect to some trees buried seventeen feet deep from the surface under which medals of Julius Cæsar were found ; so the earth, brought from the top of mountains by the waters, considerably increases the elevation of the ground of plains.

This gravel, sand, and earth which the waters from mountains convey into plains form strata, which must not be confounded with the ancient and original strata of the globe. In the former class must be placed those of soft stone, gravel, and sand, the grains of which are washed and rounded ; to these may be added, the strata of stones which are formed by a kind of incrustation ; neither of which owe their origin to the motion or sediments of the sea. In these strata of soft and imperfect stones are found an infinity of vegetables, leaves, land and river shells, and small bones of terrestrial animals, but never sea shells, or other marine productions ; which evidently proves, together with their want of solidity, that these strata are formed on the surface