

earth. Among these modern strata we never meet with any marine production; but, on the contrary, many vegetables, bones of land animals, and land and river shells, as may be seen in the meadows, near Ashby, in the county of Northampton, where a great number of snail shells, plants, herbs, and many river shells are found all in good preservation, some feet deep in the earth, but not a single marine shell among them.*

These new strata have been formed by the water which runs on the surface of the earth, often changing situation and dispersing on every side. Part of these waters penetrate internally and flow across the clefts of rocks and stones; and the reason we meet with no water in high lands, no more than on the tops of hills, is, because all elevations are generally composed of stone and rocks, therefore to find water we must dig through the rock till we come to clay, or firm earth, on which these rocks stand, and we shall not meet with any water until the stone is pierced to the bottom: therefore, when the thickness of the rock, which must be pierced, is very considerable, as in lofty mountains, where they are often up-
wards

* See Philosophical Trans. Abridg. XI. page 271.