

and have thrown it, in the form of mountains and hills, upon the original valleys or plains of the continent *.

A fifth makes the various fragments of which the earth is composed, fall successively from heaven, in the manner of meteoric stones, bearing the impress of their foreign origin in the unknown beings whose remains they contain †.

A sixth represents the globe as hollow, and places within it a loadstone nucleus, which is transported from one pole to the other, by the attraction of comets, carrying along with it the centre of gravity, and the mass of waters at the surface; thus alternately drowning the two hemispheres ‡.

We might mention twenty other systems, as different from one another as those enumerated. And to prevent mistake, we may here state, that our intention is not captiously to criticize or find fault with their authors; on the contrary, we admit that these ideas have generally been conceived by men of intellect and knowledge, who were not

* Dolomieu, in the *Journal de Physique*.

† MM. de Marschall, in their *Researches respecting the Origin and Development of the present order of the World*. Giessen, 1802.

‡ Bertrand,—*Periodical Renewal of the Terrestrial Continents*. Hamburgh, 1799.