

riched by flourishing villages, vast cities, and splendid monuments, is never disturbed but by the ravages of war, or the oppression of despotism, he is not inclined to believe that nature has there had her intestine war; and that the surface of the globe has been overthrown by revolutions and catastrophes; but his opinions change as he begins to penetrate into that soil at present so peaceful, or as he ascends the hills which bound the plain; they extend as it were with the prospect, they begin to comprehend the extent and grandeur of those events of ages past as soon as he ascends that more elevated chains of which these hills form the base, or, in following the beds of those torrents which descend from these chains, he penetrates into their interior.

FIRST PROOFS OF REVOLUTIONS.

The strata of the earth, the lowest and most level, only show, even when penetrated to very great depths, horizontal layers of matter more or less varied, which contain countless marine productions. Similar layers and similar productions form the hills to very considerable heights. Sometimes the shells are so numerous that they form by themselves the entire soil; they are found at heights greatly above the level of the sea, and where at the present day no sea could reach from existing causes; they are not only imbedded in light sand, but the hardest stones often incrust them and are everywhere penetrated by them. Every part of the world, both hemispheres, all the continents, all the islands of any extent, afford the same phenomenon. The time is past when ignorance could assert that these relics of organic bodies were but freaks of nature, pro-