

ductions engendered in the bosom of the earth by its innate creative power; and the efforts of metaphysicians will not suffice to establish such assertions. A minute investigation of the formation of these deposits, of their contexture, even of their chemical composition, does not detect the least difference between the fossil shells and those produced from the sea; their conformation is not less perfect; we do not observe either the marks of friction or fracture, evincing violent removal; the smallest of them preserve their most delicate parts, their finest points, their most minute indications; thus they have not only lived in the sea, but have been deposited by the sea; the sea has left them in the places where they are found; but the sea has for a time remained in these places, it has remained there sufficiently long and undisturbedly to be enabled to form those deposits so regular, so thick, so extensive, and so solid, which compose these layers of aquatic animals. The basis of the sea has then experienced a change either in extent or situation. What a result from the first examination, and the most superficial observation!

The traces of revolutions become more striking when we ascend higher, when we approach closer to the foot of the great chains of mountains.

There are besides banks of shells; we remark them of great thickness and solidity; the shells are there equally numerous, equally well preserved, but they are not the same species; the layers which contain them are no longer generally horizontal; they lie obliquely, sometimes nearly perpendicular; instead of digging deeply, as in the plains and broad hills, to ascertain the order of the banks, we here have them side-ways, in following the valleys formed by the convulsions which have rent them asunder; im-