

mense masses of their remains constitute at the foot of their pinnacles heavy mounds, the height of which is increased by every thaw and every storm.

And these upright (redressés) banks, which form the crests of the secondary mountains, are not placed on the horizontal banks of the hills which form their lower ascents; on the contrary, they are sunk beneath them. These hills rest on their declivities. When the horizontal layers in the vicinity of these mountains with oblique strata, are laid open, we again find the layers oblique in the excavation; sometimes even when the oblique layers are not very much elevated, their summit is crowned with horizontal layers. The oblique layers are then more ancient than the horizontal layers; and as it is impossible, at least with regard to the greater number, that they were originally formed horizontally, it is evident that they have been lifted up; that they have been so before the others were deposited on them.(1)

Thus the sea, previously to the formation of horizontal layers, had formed others which certain causes had broken up, formed again, again destroyed in a thousand ways; and, as many of these oblique banks which it had first formed, are loftier than those horizontal layers which have succeeded them, and which environ them, the causes which have given this obliquity to these banks have also forced them above the level of the sea, and formed them

(1) The idea supported by some geologists, that certain layers have been formed in the oblique position in which we now find them, in supposing it true with respect to some that are crystallized, as Mr. Greenhough says, in the same manner as a deposite incrusts the inside of all vessels in which gypseous waters are boiled; it cannot be applied to those which contain shells or round stones which could not remain thus suspended, awaiting the formation of the cement which was necessary to conglomerate them.