

for the observer to discover the precise point whence it began to deposite its productions.

PROOFS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN REVOLUTIONS AN-
TERIOR TO THE EXISTENCE OF LIVING BEINGS.

Let us ascend, let us mount the lofty mountain tops, the steep summits of the great chains, soon these relics of marine animals, these numberless shells will become more and more rare, and finally disappear; we shall reach layers of a different nature, which contain no vestige of a living being. They will however show by their crystallization and even their stratification, that they were originally formed in a liquid state; by their oblique situation, their steepness, that they have been overthrown; by the manner in which they bury themselves obliquely under the layers of shells, that they were formed before them; finally, by the elevation with which their jagged and naked tops rise above all these layers of shells, that these summits were already above the level of the waters when these shelly layers were formed.

Such are those famous primitive or primordial mountains which traverse our continents in different directions; elevated above the clouds, separating the beds of rivers; they hold in their perpetual snows the reservoirs which feed the sources, and in a manner form the skeleton or vast frame-work of the earth.

From a vast distance the eye perceives by the indentions with which their crests are marked, in the sharp points which form their summits, signs of the violent manner of their formation: far different from