

THE FALLING AWAY OF PORTIONS OF THE MASSES.

Every where, where the broken layers present their edge on the rugged fronts, there falls at their base every spring, and even at every storm, fragments of their component parts, which become round by rolling one on the other, and which in a mass, assume a determined inclination, conformably with the laws of cohesion, thus forming, at the foot of the height, a ridge more or less elevated, according as the fall of the materials be more or less abundant; these ridges form the sides of the valleys in all the high mountains, and are covered with rich vegetation when the falling away of the upper parts becomes less frequent; but their want of solidity renders them liable to slip themselves, when they are undermined by streams; and it is then that cities, rich and thickly populated districts are overwhelmed by the slipping of a mountain; that the course of rivers is interrupted; and that lakes are formed on spots once fertile and luxuriant. But fortunately these slips occur but seldom, and the principal influence of these accumulated hills is to supply materials for the ravages of the torrents.

ALLUVIAL DEPOSITES.

The waters which fall on the peaks and summits of mountains, the condensed vapours, or the liquified snows, descend along their declivities by innumerable channels; they collect in their progress some

causes, the German work of M. de Hof, in 2 vols. 8vo. The collection of facts is gathered with as much care as learning.