

range above the outcrop edge of the limestone beds, and act as drainage channels from the surface to the jointed calcareous rocks below. These round or irregular pits and holes are smoothed on the faces and joints of stone, as if by the action of acidulated water, the origin of which, from the air or the neighbouring vegetable substances, is not hypothetical.

Effects of Frost.

In no form is the moisture of the atmosphere inefficient in accelerating the disintegration of rocks. Collected in the joints and cavities of mountains, it loosens every thing by its expansion and relaxation; heaped into enormous glaciers on the summits and down the valleys of the Alps, it melts at its lower edges and on the lower surfaces, and thus is ever in motion downwards; augmented from above and diminished from below, its moving masses plough up the solid earth, and, by a wonderful and momentarily insensible energy, pile up, on each side of the icy valley, vast quantities of blocks of stone and heaps of earth, which slowly advance into the lower ground; and these sometimes bear trees and admit cultivation; till, in the course of changes which these rude climates experience, the whole is transported away by the river which flows beneath, and space is left for new augmentations from above. Perhaps no circumstances are so favourable to the collection of materials for rivers to sweep away, as the glacier crown and icy valleys of the Alps, accompanied by the thundering avalanche and frequent landslips, like those of the Rossberg and the Righi. What further happens to these materials, belongs to the history of the river.

Effects of Springs.

Collected in the atmosphere, the rain is filtered through the sandy rocks, passes rapidly by the joints of the calcareous strata, and is stopped by the clays, and