a, h, at the extremities of the arc. As a thickness of 100 miles so far exceeds that of the whole of the strata that are accessible to human observation, we cannot doubt that disturbance of the earth's surface, even to ten times the depth of those which come within the scope of geological inquiry, may take place, without in any sensible degree affecting the entire mass of the globe.* If these facts be duly considered, the mind will be prepared to receive one of the most startling propositions in modern geology—namely, that the highest mountains have once been the bed of the sea, and have been raised to their present situations by subterranean agency, some slowly, others suddenly, but all, geologically speaking, at a comparatively recent period.

p. ka

* Mr. Fairholme suggests the following ingenious method to convey a general idea of the relative magnitude of the inequalities of the earth's surface. If we form a scale on the sand of the sea-shore in the proportion of an inch to a mile, we shall have a circle of 8000 inches, or 222 yards in diameter, which, when marked out with small stakes, appears a very large area. Placing ourselves upon any part of this circumference, we have an opportunity of taking a just, though microscopic, view of the surface. The highest mountains in the world would be represented by a little ridge five inches high; the profound abyss of the ocean by a groove of the same depth; while the medium inequality of sea and land would not exceed one inch. To form an idea of smaller objects, we must examine an inch scale, finely graduated, by the aid of a microscope, and we shall then find that the tallest man would be about the 880th part of an inch in height-the size of the smallest animalcule observed in fluids.

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