

new combinations ; and that if water, charged with mineral matter, come in contact with bodies in this state, a mutual action takes place, new combinations result, and solid particles are precipitated, so as to occupy the place left vacant by the decomposed organic substance.

Mr. Parkinson, in corroboration of his opinion that wood undergoes bituminization before it becomes petrified, mentions, that a specimen of wood from Walton, which was changed into marble, and took a beautiful polish, left, upon removing the carbonate of lime by muriatic acid, a mass of light, inflammable, bituminous wood, which possessed a volume almost equal to its original state.\*

29. HAZEL-NUTS FILLED WITH SPAR.—Before I quit this subject I would notice a singular fact—an instance of partial mineralization, in which mineral matter has permeated the shells of hazel-nuts, without altering their structure, although the interior is lined with spar. In Belfast Lough, a bed of submarine peat is situated beneath the ordinary level of the waters, but is generally left bare at the ebb tides. Trunks and branches of trees are imbedded in the peat, and vast quantities of hazel-nuts, the whole being covered by layers of sand, shells, and blue clay. On the east side of the Lough, limestone rocks exist, and the nuts in the peat contain calcareous spar. Some specimens are full, others are only lined with groups of crystals. The shells

\* Organic Remains, vol. iii. p. 440.